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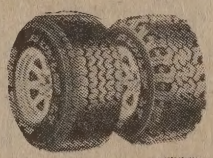

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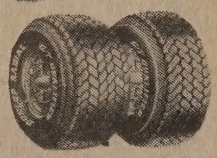

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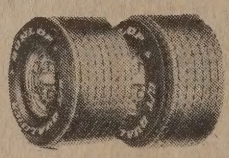

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Work on a new artificial reef within Fire Island Inlet was initiated on October 25, 1979 with the sinking of a wood barge on location. The reef site just offshore of Oak Beach was proposed 1976 by the late Captain Bill Joseph of Babylon and the Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Marine Resources. The site is near to Fire Island Inlet, yet is protected from the open sea by the Sore Thumb and will offer tremendous opportunity to the small boat angler. The barge and all handling costs were donated by Mr. Edwin Mooney of Fire Island Ferries, Inc. of Bay Shore, New York. Captain Neil Delanoy of the Captree charter boat "Lady Ann" assisted in the positioning. The barge measured 100 feet long by 20 feet wide and offers a five foot profile in the 22 depths prevalent at the reef site.

The project is designed to provide additional artificial reef habitat and to attract and congregate bottom feeding fish. Biologically, the Fire Island Inlet area is extremely productive and studies conducted by the Department of Environmental Conservation have indicated the availability of over 57 species of fish there. The artificial reef can be expected to provide a good tautog (blackfish) and black sea bass fishery as well as a habitat for striped bass.

BROOKLYN BOATING COURSE

Public Education Officer, Harry Frankel, of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, has announced, that Flotilla 11-5 will render a public education class, dealing with the arts of boating skills and safety. This will be a 16 lesson course, and is the longest known such course, as given by the Auxiliary. 11 lessons take the student through the art of boat handling to the knowledge of radio telephone communication. The last 5 lessons are devoted to the physical aspect of plotting courses on nautical charts. The course starts on Monday February 11, 1980, and will be given every Monday evening at 8:00 p.m. The course will be rendered in the clubhourse of the Diamond Point Y.C., which is located at 1350 Paedergat Ave. In the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, NY. A nominal fee of $20.00 will be charged to each student, which will cover an abundence of books, charts, and instruments which are necessary to a course as comprehensive as this one. Need more info? Call Mr. Frankel, any business day 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 212-868-8853, or write to him at the yacht club.

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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The *Lady Ann* stands by as an old barge is sunk, which will be the foundation for a new artificial fishing reef. ***See story on page 2.***

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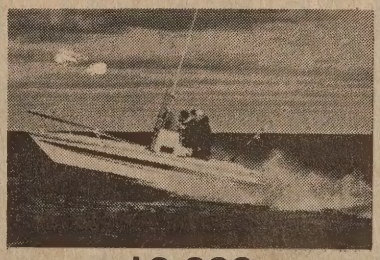

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The Fighting Chair

with Scott Simons

UPDATE OF DREDGING AT ROMER

As a result of the letter of protest from Anthony Taormina of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, the Army Corps of Engineers is reviewing the permit that has been granted for the extensive dredging of Romer Shoal in the New York Bight. The permit authorizes the New Jersey Transportation Authority to dredge some two-million cubic yards of land fill from the shoal to a depth of minus forty-five feet over the next three years. This project will destroy a large part of the shoal complex, which in turn will all but eliminate the area as prime recreational fishing grounds. Although there is reason for hope, it is by no means certain that the Army Corps will decide to rescind the permit because of the late date. The permit has already been granted, the N.J.T.A. needs the fill soon, and contracts for the dredging have already been awarded. According to Phil McGrade, permit officer for the Corps, the contractor is not scheduled to start dredging until the end of the month. To stop a project that has progressed this far can prove to be a monumental task if the Corps does not chose to rescind the permit.

Last Thursday I went to the National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Headquarters in Gloucester, Massachusetts and spoke with Deputy Director Bob Hanks and informed him of our concern that a prime recreational fishing ground was about to be destroyed. Mr. Hanks also appeared to be concerned, and agreed to have the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council look into the situation at its monthly meeting this week in Philadelphia. Although Romer Shoal is technically in New Jersey waters, it is our belief that the Council should be interested in this matter because it makes little sense to manage our fish stocks within the FCMZ if we don't protect their inshore habitat. A letter of concern from an official government body such as the Mid-Atlantic Council to the Army Corps of Engineers could be very influential in saving a large fish habitat such as Romer Shoal from needless destruction.

SPORTFISHING SANCTUARIES

While in Gloucester I also met with NMFS officials Bob Hanks, Bruce Freedman and Arnet Taylor on another matter that has us deeply disturbed. This summer, for the first time in recent memory, a large tuna purse senier fished the inshore waters of Long Island. At various times during the months of July, August and September of this past fishing season a tuna purse seiner, with the aid of a spotter plane, worked the area southeast of Block Island known as the Mudhole. The problem was that this same area was being fished by charter and private sportfishing boats out of Montauk, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The purse seiner was highly visible during the day, but the captain of the vessel was wise enough to wait until the sportfishermen had returned to port before making its set. Naturally, after each of these sets the sportfishing for bluefin tuna in the immediate area came to an abrupt halt, obviously upsetting the sportfishermen considerably. As fast as new schools of tuna moved into the area, the purse seiner would see to their removal. And all perfectly legal, we may add.

If this were only an isolated incident we wouldn't be disturbed, but in our opinion it is something much more serious and is the opening move in a new social conflict in the making. We only need look to the north of us to see where the future of bluefin tuna fishing will lead. Many rod and reel fishermen in our area have been ecstatic to receive between $1.00 and $1.50 a pound for the giant tuna they have caught. But thus far, we're happy to report, the tuna fever to the north of us hasn't caught on in our waters. Bluefin tuna caught by those fishing in Massachusetts often brought more than two dollars a pound this past summer, and last week when I was in Gloucester the going price was an unbelievable four-dollars a pound! This has seen the demise of sportfishing for tuna in the area as virtually everyone turned in their rods and reels for the more efficient hand-lines and harpoons. The only rod and reel fishing for giants takes place on charterboats, but even here the fishing has turned into a scandal.

Charter a boat for around $400 a day and you can use a rod and reel to fish. But if you are fortunate enough to take a giant tuna, one of the most difficult accomplishments there is in the world of sportfishing, don't plan on tagging and releasing it or even having it mounted—the fish belongs to the charterboat lock, stock and barrel, to be sold by the captain for a few thou, and you don't even get your four-hundred bucks back! There was even a case of a sportfisherman who chartered a boat for giant tuna who wanted to fish for a record with 80-pound class tackle. The captain told him that he could use light tackle if he wanted, but if he didn't land the fish he would have to reimburse the crew for the market value of the fish! There has also been much social and gear conflict between handliners, harpooners, rod and reel fishermen and purse seiners in Massachusetts Bay as the competition for the available giant tuna increases with the Japanese willingness to pay ever-skyrocketing prices for their sashami.

Traditionally, the fishery for bluefin tuna in Long Island and New Jersey waters has been recreational. The hey-day of sportfishing for tuna was in the 1930's, 40's and early 50's, and we need only look at the names of the larger fishing clubs for proof—the Babylon Tuna Club, Bay Shore Tuna Club, Freeport Tuna Club, Sheepshead Bay Tuna Club, etc. Walk into Salivar's Diner in Montauk and take a look at the old, yellowed photos on the wall—smiling anglers posing with their catches of giant bluefins, with nary a striped bass or blue shark to be seen. These were the days when bluefin tuna were **THE** gamefish, and nobody would even think of fishing for sharks for sport. This would only come later, after the west coast tuna purse seiners showed up in our waters in the mid-fifties and had almost wiped the species out by the end of the decade, and shark fishing developed by default—there was nothing else around to catch!

For a variety of reasons related to the 200-Mile Limit and the fact that we are now managing, to some degree, the bluefin tuna stocks in American waters, sportfishermen in the Long Island and New Jersey area have seen a return of both school tuna and giants to our inshore waters. By inshore waters we mean fishing grounds that are within range of small sportfishing vessels that must sail to the fishing grounds, fish, and return to port all within the same day. Tuna more than 50 miles from a safe port may as well be a hundred or more miles distant, because all but the richest of sportfishermen don't have the time, means or money to fish for them. So it therefore becomes very important that once tuna do come within range that they be protected from the act of purse seining, which will remove entire schools of fish from a local area. This will not deny the purse seiners their right to fish for tuna under the quotas set by NMFS, however. Tuna purse seiners are very large, live-aboard vessels that are capable of following and fishing the schools of tuna throughout their migratory range, and they have had no problems in filling their quotas for either school tuna or giants. So the question is simple: why do the purse seiners have to fish the same areas as recreational fishermen? On those rare occasions that tuna do move into inshore waters within range of sportfishing vessels, why can't we restrict that area from fishing by purse seiners? When a purse seiner removes a school of tuna from a local area it is, in fact, denying recreational fishermen our rights of access to the fishery. But banning purse seining in areas heavily fished by recreational fishermen is not denying commercial fishermen their rights of access—they can still fish other waters they have access to that sportfishermen don't.

I proposed to Bob Hanks, Bruce Freedman and Arnet Taylor the following: that certain areas be set aside for the exclusive use of rod and reel fishermen. That "windows" be designated much the same as those that have been established for foreign fishing areas. "Windows" that would cover the most popular recreational fishing grounds like the Mudhole off Block Island, the Butterfish Hole off Montauk, the Mudhole in the New York Bight, etc. Once established, commercial fishing with purse seines and harpoons would be prohibited in these "rod and reel only" areas. Much to my surprise, they agreed to the **concept** of this proposal, and did not reject it out of hand. Therefore, we are in the process of preparing a formal proposal to establish these sportfishing sanctuaries for the 1980 fishing season. We have high hopes for success, but will need help from our readers. In the proposal we will have to document that bluefin tuna were traditionally a recreational fishery in the past, so we will need some data from the older fishing clubs and some of you old timers out there. We must also stress the economic importance of returning the recreational bluefin tuna fishery to its former size, so let's hear from some of you charterboat captains, marina operators, bait and tackle dealers, etc. Anyone that believes they have data that can help substantiate our proposal are asked to please call me at The Fisherman during the day at (516) 725-4200, or in the evening at (516) 668-9369. Individual readers will be asked for their support after the official proposal has been made and it enters the public hearing stage.

Ronnie sez—

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THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE
...From the Godfather's Cookbook
with Eileen Regina

STUFFED MACKEREL

We're not much as far as eating fish goes, but do like to sample new recipes with fresh fish that Andy accidentally catches from time to time. This additional mackerel recipe happens to be one of our favorites; we also like mackerel baked in tomato sauce, but you don't need a recipe for that. Just place your fish in a pan, pour on one, eight-ounce can of tomato sauce for every two fish, and bake at 350° until flaky-white, or about ten minutes per pound. Like buying a new car, when you make this dish there are a lot of options available: you can add sliced onions if you like, some sliced lemons, or sliced potatoes—any or all at your own discretion.

Like I said, we're not great fish eaters and Andy is no connoisseur either; but we do have fish occasionally, and when we do, I always ask Jumbo how he would like me to prepare it. This way he can't squawk when I serve it (which he does anyway), or complain to his mother that I don't know how to cook like she can! Thank goodness she knows what a skootch her son is, this way she really understands. When it comes to knowing what her son likes to eat, she must really be an expert because he's a walking testimonial to her excellent cooking—all two hundred and fifty pounds of him!

Anyway, Andy recently decided to go fishing for mackerel. The party boats in City Island were really loading up on the macs and boats were returning to port a couple of hours ahead of time, loaded with mackerel; and in the evening it was merely a matter of one long drift to load up once the fish were located. Running out to mid-Sound between Stamford on the Connecticut side and Lloyd's Point on the Long Island shore, the skippers were homing in on buoy 32A with deadly accuracy, sitting down on an acre of mackerel every time out. It had gotten to the point where the running time far exceeded the fishing time needed to fill a burlap bag with fat macs—so my intrepid fisherman figured that the time was right for him to go.

I usually don't complain when he goes fishing; he works hard all week long and really deserves a break once in awhile. He loves fishing with a passion once applied to me in his younger years, and besides, he forever needs photographs for those stories he writes for Doc Muller. Secretly girls, I'm happy when he doesn't stay home 'cause he keeps me busier than a one-armed juggler with all his requests, anyway. It's, "Honey, get me this," or "Honey, get me that," every five minutes, and I don't mind either.

Taking his fishing trip preparations, for instance. He starts out with his beloved camera, then asks for a roll of film; then he remembers that he needs the battery, which is kept in the refrigerator. Gosh, he's so well organized. There's also the coin, to remove the screw that holds the battery in the camera, and then I hang the camera on the doorknob, so he won't forget it the following morning! (Just between us, he forgets the stupid thing half the time anyway!)

I won't bore you with like stories about readying his fishing gear, or his fishing clothes, which are only instant replays of that camera fiasco anyhow. Suffice it to say, that by the time he leaves the house, I'm happy to see him go!

Naturally, knowing my guy, when he finally decides to get his big butt in gear and go fishing, you can safely bet on two things: the fish will be long gone and the beautiful weather we had been having will have taken a turn for the worse! Last week, when he took that mac trip, it was a minor miracle that the fish were still so cooperative. Not to be completely out of character, the weather was really lousy (winds from the northeast at forty miles an hour and driving rain)—just to let you know that I collected another dollar from him when he came back home!

We have a standing bet whenever he goes fishing: a buck on the weather, and another buck on catching fish. So far, I'm way ahead of the game, but only because no one knows him better than I do—not even his mother! If it wasn't for the four fish he brought home that day, I'd have won another dollar, too! That's another thing I can count on. Here guys have dragged sacks of macs off the boat all week, and my guy carries home four forlorn fish! He always has some excuse for not bringing much fish home anyway. This time it was the rotten weather; last time it was because he had to spend a lot of time taking photos, the time before that because of something else.

Actually, Andy is a practicing conservationist. Honest, he really is, firmly believing in not overfishing any species—even abundant bottom fish. He believes that if every fisherman kept only what he would actually need, that there'd be lots of fish left to keep everyone more than happy for hundreds of years to come. Of course, it is not difficult to believe in conservation when you are in no danger of putting large dents in any fish population anyway, but he still believes in his cause! And he always likes his fish prepared one way all the time. Whenever I ask him, he always tells me to stuff it!

******

Stuffed Mackerel

Serves Four

4 small mackerel
3 tbsps. butter
1 medium onion, sliced
2 tbsps. pine nuts
1/3 cup chopped walnuts
1/4 cup currants
2 tbsps. chopped parsley
1/2 cup soft white bread crumbs
1 tbsp. dried dill weed
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1/2 cup cooking oil
salt and pepper to taste
fine dry bread crumbs
lemon wedges

Have mackerel cleaned and the backbone removed without cutting the fish in half. If the fish contains any roe, set aside for other use. Rinse fish in cold water, and pat dry.

Heat butter in a skillet; add onion and saute until light golden. Add nuts, currants, soft bread crumbs, parsley, dill, salt and pepper. Blend well and saute gently while stirring for 2 or 3 minutes. Remove from heat and let mixture cool.

Stuff mackerel cavity with mixture, close the opening with toothpicks. Dip fish in beaten eggs, then roll in bread crumbs. Heat oil in skillet. Fry fish on each side for about 3 minutes or until nicely browned. Drain on paper towel; garnish with lemon wedges and serve.

NOTE: Mackerel roe is a delicacy to be served for lunch or brunch. Parboil the roe in simmering salted water for about 3 or 4 minutes. Remove carefully; dry on paper towel. Dredge in flour and saute in butter until golden brown. Season with salt and pepper and serve with lemon wedges.

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

GAO Report Blasts 200-Mile Enforcement

A report recently issued by the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) notes that better enforcement will be necessary in the future if management plans prepared under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 are to succeed. Specifically, the GAO noted a lack of coordination between the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Coast Guard. These agencies are charged with enforcement of the law, but "have not set specific goals or decided what methods and how much staff and equipment are needed to meet their goals."

Going on, the GAO states that 'Guidance to enforcement agents emphasizes procedures—how to fill out forms—not overall goals and priorities. Because there are too few people to enforce the law, they are frequently transferred to help out temporarily elsewhere. Some Coast Guard workers do not have enough training in identifying fish."

The NMFS Statistics branch is criticized for not routinely providing information to enforcement agents that is required for effective enforcement. In some cases, the agents weren't even informed of changes in the regs and tried to enforce rules no longer in effect.

GAO picked up the obvious fact that the writing of the regulations requires impractical amounts of resources (personnel, vessels and aircraft) in order to prove that a violation took place. During my time on the Mid-Atlantic Council, I repeatedly brought up that point relative to the surf clam plan. In that plan, the boats are allowed to fish a certain amount of time per week—usually twenty-four hours. However, that doesn't include transit time to and from the grounds. Therefore, the only way that the law can be enforced is to actually catch a clammer operating beyond the stated period. That means enforcement at sea by ship or plane at great—and unnecessary—expense to the taxpayer. Everyone knows that violations have been widespread, but the difficulties involved in enforcing these poorly written regulations have made lawbreaking the popular thing to do. Time and again, I've proposed that the regulations be re-written to provide for a time at which the boats in any given port can leave the inlet and a time at which they must be back. This can be set up port-by-port based on the average running time to the grounds in order to give everyone approximately the same amount of fishing time. Some minor allowance would be made for an occasional mechanical breakdown reported by marine radio to the enforcement agent or Coast Guard. Under this system, the agent could enforce the law by simply driving to the inlet and watching the boats leaving and returning. However, that's far too simple and inexpensive for the NMFS bureaucracy, which has insisted on staying with a system that encourages even the honest to break the law in order to be competitive!

The GAO report further notes that, "Some regulations are confusing, making normal fishing within 200-miles of the U.S. Coast almost impossible without breaking the new rules. Frequent changes in regulations also complicate enforcement." Since State Regulations (or lack of same) have not been coordinated with Federal guidelines, Federal enforcement authorities must determine where the fish were caught to prove a violation: "an impossible task."

Worst of all, the GAO states the penalties do not deter violations. "The Service's penalty process is time-consuming, and cases have not been processed as expeditiously as possible. Many cases have been pending since 1977, and closed cases were settled on the basis of compromise offers. Some delays can be traced to the fact that officials who handle violations and assess penalties have many other duties. Penalties do little to discourage further violations. Although the law authorized fines up to $25,000 per violation, and even forfeiture of the vessel and its catch, fines collected for groundfish violations generally have been less than $500. Increasingly, fishermen are tempted to violate the law because the profit to be gained far outweighs the penalty if they are caught."

Specifically, the GAO recommended that the Secretary of Commerce should: (a) Require that plans regulations be revised in order to strengthen enforcement activity by: changing to dockside from at-sea enforcement where possible; establishing landing limitations on a trip basis, rather than a weekly basis; establishing a single quota for each species regardless of where the catch was taken, and limiting the number of nets a vessel may carry on board; (b) Require that the practicability and feasibility of enforcement strategies and approaches be considered in approving all future plans; (c) Encourage coastal states to regulate fishing in territorial (inside three miles) waters and take pre-emptive action when their failure to do so prevents carrying out Federal fishery management plans; (d) Direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop specific enforcement goals and strategies and identify the resources needed; and ensure that stiffer penalties are imposed and collection is pursued rigorously.

Furthermore, the Secretary of Transportation should direct the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard to see that staff engaged in enforcing fishing regulations receive adequate training—particularly in identifying violations.

In terms of foreign enforcement, the GAO noted that there is no system to verify the accuracy of catch statistics reported by foreign vessels. It has been widely suspected that these vessels underreport their catches—something that has been going on since ICNAF days. It's even more serious now that the foreigners are being charged fees based on a small percentage of the market value of surplus species. By under-reporting they get more fish for the same money—both undercutting the conservation aspects of the plan and cheating the U.S. Government out of some money it should be receiving. In order to check this, the GAO selected a sample of thirty-six foreign vessels and compared the catch they reported with the estimates given by U.S. observers aboard during that same period. In thirty-one out of thirty-six cases, either squid, hake or butterfish was under-reported. Thirteen of the thirty-one underreported two or more of these species. Worst of all, that just represents cheating when an observer is aboard to check on them. You can imagine what is going on when observers aren't aboard! Unfortunately, only twenty per cent of the fishing time put in by foreign vessels was monitored by observers in 1978.

The GAO also criticized the high turnover rate of observers and the long time required to train replacements. It was recommended that the

(Continued on page 18.)

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FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

SEARCHES FOR ENERGY ALTERNATIVES MAY MEAN BOON FOR FISHERMAN

SPINOFFS! Is it possible that a wind, apparently meant to blow well for no one, may mean better fishing, less expensive fishing, and a better catch per unit effort? Of course, the talk around the waterfront during the most recent energy crisis in the summer of 1979 was that gasoline would mean less fishing. Surf fishermen worried about gas for their cars and buggies, while the boatmen were concerned about both the gas for the boat and the car to get to the boat: these were not concerns in 1973 during a winter shortage. Things look a lot brighter now, but the spectre of more and bigger shortages lingers with us. In 1973, we believed that the shortage was a one-time event, but the experiences of this year encourages us to think that our problems with fuel will increase. It is not important to this discussion whether or not the shortages of present and future are real or imagined, since the lack of fuel prevents us from fishing either way. Thus we must be concerned, especially if fishing is your one and only vice as it is with some. But there is hope!

ELECTRIC PROPULSION! Several automobile makers seem to be on the verge of developing a practical electric engine. The scoop is that these engines will require relatively little expense to run and maintain and that batteries currently under refinement will be lightweight, although perhaps a little expensive. Should such an engine become practical for automobiles, it should not be long before they can be modified for use in boats. Electric land transportation should help the surf fishermen, but there will likely be many more pluses for those of us who bounce around on the high seas. Electric propulsion will be cleaner and, therefore, the environment will benefit. Since boats are docked, moored, and refueled in estuaries, less gas spilled and less gasoline exhaust should improve the water quality greatly. Boats will also run more quietly and this will facilitate trolling in shallow water or running up on a school of surface feeding fish. Of course, the magnitude of the problem is vastly reduced; but freshwater fishermen have been using electric propulsion for years to fish difficult areas where noisy outboards would otherwise spook the fish. It is also easier to throttle back on engines that use electricity as their source of power and, therefore, even deep-water slow trolling that is at times required will be facilitated; no more fouled plugs and wasted gas!

A SIDE EFFECT. Now, if we can find alternative sources of power, we will use less gas and diesel oil. When we use less fuel, the demand for the product will decrease and, according to the economist's perception of the effect of demand on prices, oil prices should either stabilize or decrease. Since so many of the items we use in our sport are made either from petroleum or with petroleum, the prices of these items should come more in line with our incomes. Fiberglas boats, plastics in reels and accessory tackle, lubricants, monofilament lines, lures, and all items manufactured where heat and/or air conditioning are needed, should experience price stabilization.

NUCLEAR POWER! What is the future of nuclear energy? Will it be a viable energy alternative? At one time I believed that it would because it is safe and economical. However, scientists have not adequately solved the problems of waste disposal and recent minor accidents have infuriated the public. In recent months, there have been more and more rallies against the use of nuclear power and each day, we experience a shrinking support for the use of nuclear energy. If public support continues to wane, then it will become increasingly difficult for government and industry to build the plants. Furthermore, within the last few years quite a few nuclear plants have been closed by a combination of technical problems and citizen concerns. Still, if we can overcome these technical difficulties and convince the public that nuclear energy is a safe source of power, yet another energy alternative will reduce the cost of goods and services that require petroleum, as well as provide cheaper fuels to heat and light our homes and offices. Thus, we remain less certain about the future role of nuclear power and wait for time and circumstances to sort out directions.

REDUCING FUEL COSTS WHILE WAITING FOR THE NEW TECHNOLOGY. Each of us can save fuel and thus reduce the cost associated with our fishing. To do so requires only minimum effort and yet reaps great rewards. In addition to saving money for ourselves, we are helping to keep the cost of fuel from moving even higher since less consumption means less demand which means less leverage on the price. The automobile is a good place to start. There are any number of things you can do to reduce costs. First, drive more gently. You have heard it all before, but by avoiding herky-jerky driving you can save as much as thirty per cent on fuel consumption depending upon the age, make, and model of your car. Keep the buggy tuned up. Untuned cars (and boats) waste gas and increase your costs. You also lose power and may find morning starts more difficult. Look for stations that advertise a lower price. Some stations offer regular at ninety-four cents a gallon as compared to above $1.10 per gallon in the big name stations. Remember, there is a message here to the oil companies: lower prices get our business! Keep the tire pressure up. Low tire pressure causes more friction and more friction means that more energy has to be used to push the vehicle forward. Stay within the 55 mph limit; at 70 mph the average car will use twenty per cent more gas than the same car driving at 55 mph. Sure, these are all minor items and adhering to any one may not change your economy significantly. However, collectively they can. We tried an experiment with a full-sized American car that gets about 15 mpg when the above items are not carefully remembered. Driving slowly saved about one mile per gallon. Tire pressure and a tune-up saved another mpg. Anticipating traffic lights and traffic patterns saved another mpg. Other minor changes in habits saved yet another one-half mpg. That means that the car originally getting 15 mpg now was up to 18½ mpg without any noticeable effects on the driver. In fact, whatever effects there were, were positive. The driver, conscious of slower more controlled driving, commented that he felt more relaxed behind the wheel and thus safer. Now, 3½ mpg may not sound like much until you do a little arithmetic. Let us, for argument's sake, say that the owner of the above car drives 10,000 miles per year and buys his gas at $1.00 per gallon. At 15 mpg, he will need 666.6 gallons of gas for the year at a total cost of $666.60 per year. Now, let's see what happens if steps are taken to improve mileage to 18½ mpg. Now the same driver will need 540.54 gallons of gas for the year at a cost of $540. Thus, the driver of this vehicle saves about 126 gallons of gas for the year and about $126! To put that another way, conceivably, this driver will be able to drive 233 more miles than his counterpart. Since the average fishing trip is about sixty miles, the economy-conscious driver will be able to make about thirty-nine additional trips for the same cost! Much the same is true for boats. Most boat engines—outboard or inboard—run most efficiently when they are throttled back to about three-quarters. We are told that the engines also last longer

when they are subjected to less stress. So, in this case, you save on the cost of gas and the cost of maintenance. It's a good bet. Some skippers save gas when trolling by rigging a smaller engine on the transom. Once on the grounds, the big gas guzzler can be shut off and the efficient putt-putt pressed into service.

MAKING FISHING REEFS FROM ENERGY ALTERNATIVE WASTES. We talked with Tony Taromina recently about a joint project between the Department of Energy and the New York ERDA, along with the Marine Science Research Center at Stony Brook. Government and industry have been searching for energy alternatives that are less expensive and less draining of our oil reserves. Clearly, we have plenty of coal; in fact, it is our most abundant source of energy and we have more of it than the rest of the world. However, coal is a dirty fuel to burn and this fact has long put coal at or near the bottom of the environmentalist's hit parade. Where we burn a lot of soft coals, especially soft coals, the air becomes sooty and the level of sulfate air contaminants rises. It was for these reasons that we switched to oil and gas decades ago. However, today we have the technology to remove the soot and other harmful materials from the exhausts of coal burning furnaces. The invention of stack scrubbers—devices that are placed in the smokestacks of power plants—collects ash that is rich in calcium sulfate. Question: can the ash from the scrubbers be collected and pressed into blocks that can then be used to build something? How about artificial fishing reefs? Question: will these blocks be toxic to marine life, and will they hold up in the water? In 1978 scientists attempted to seek the answers to these questions. They developed a plan to place seven hundred blocks of the material in a pile on the ocean bottom about two-and-a-half miles south of Fire Island Inlet. Each block will weigh about 2,000 lbs. To test the feasibility of using this material to make blocks, the scientists put out trays of the material; each block about the size of red construction brick. Divers examined the blocks regularly. The test blocks did show signs of bottom growth, the first step in establishing a good fishing reef; and the presence of the growth would indicate that there has not been significant leaching of toxic substances in the blocks out into the water or the surface of the blocks. The last remaining question involves how the blocks will stand up to water and time. The book is still not closed on this aspect of the study as yet, indicated Mr. Taormina, but initial results suggest that although the blocks become initially softer, they do get harder with time and that the material should be very useful in constructing reefs.

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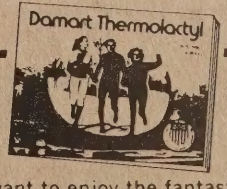

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Surf Side

with Paul Reynolds

A FRESH LOOK AT FLYRODDING

★ PART TWO ★

For most fly rodders—either fresh or salt water, the subject of flies is their favorite subject. There is a fine balance between the fly as a creative art form and the fly as a useful and necessary fishing instrument. Many anglers start fly rodding with little, if any, aspiration toward tying their own flies. Over a period of time, however, the urge to produce one of their own that will actually catch a fish is too much to resist. Individuals have even developed avocational interests from this endeavor to the extent that they would rather dress flies than fish! All of this has contributed greatly to the sport: there is something in it for everybody. Due to the increased number of fly tyers, new patterns, tools, materials, and tying procedures are constantly developed which benefit all enthusiasts involved in the sport of fly rodding. It is important to understand that thousands of new patterns or variations of old ones are developed each year. Each of these if fished long enough with diligence and confidence will eventually bring a rewarding moment for the angler: one curious, starving, or angry fish has been found. However, many of these flies, because of their productivity, warrant local recognition. From these, there are a few that eventually reach national prominence as flies that seem to produce almost anywhere.

There are any number of reasons that these nationally prominent patterns will vary from locale to locale. The explanations are far too extensive to detail here. You must, however, realize that they do. Of far more importance is the realization that if there was a locally prominent fly developed to be fished under certain conditions, it will almost always outproduce the nationally recognized fly when those particular conditions exist.

What we should do then is carry some of the nationally prominent patterns suited to our waters, while trying constantly to develop productive patterns for our specific waters. Because it has been only within the last five years that our area has seen the vast expansion in fly rodding, there have been problems with fly selection. Last year in the articles I wrote, I described many of these problems. I also mentioned that almost invariably fly rodders in our area will carry Lefty Kreh's Deceiver, Joe Brooks' Blonde, or a close variation. They wouldn't carry them if they didn't work...sometimes. If they did work all the time, most guys would quit seeing the absence of challenge in the angling. However, you only need to have fish everywhere around you and only take one fish to realize that there is a better way. Of course, I'm assuming that you've tried the change-the-line, leader-color-and-size-of-fly route! There is nothing shameful here. The best of anglers will admit that it has happened to them—whether it be from boat, surf, etc.

Because of these occurrences, some flies have been developed which either have, or should receive, well-deserved local recognition. Some designs are completely new, while some are variations of previously developed fresh or salt water patterns. Within the last year or two there has been more interest in the use of poppers. This has certainly not been due to the ease in casting them, but rather to eager surface feeding fish. Also a contributing factor is that the take on a popper is usually something that a fly rodder will never forget!

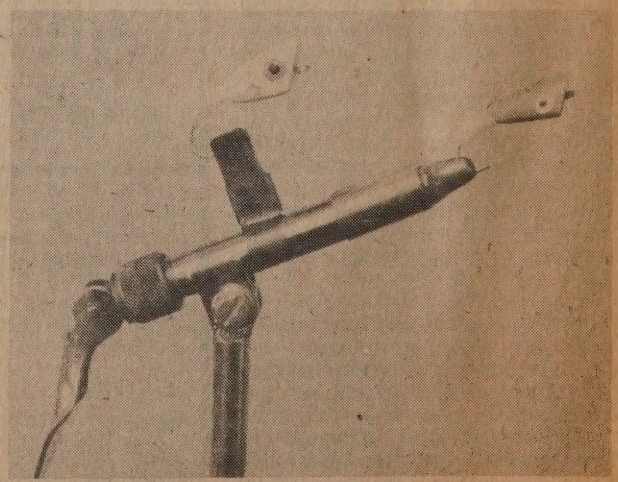
The popper, if designed properly, will produce a popping or gurgling sound when retrieved in short jerks. It will also leave a wake of calm waters and in-between the stripping motion, it will dangle head-up effectively, imitating an injured baitfish. The laws of nature seem to dictate that the weak and injured will go first. These laws apply in the fishing world.

While I still prefer to make my own, there are some plastic poppers now on the market that appear very good. They are the hard plastic variety and will take the punishment they are often subjected to. There are also unfinished plastic poppers made from expanded beads that are now available. They require very little in the way of finishing. While not being able to take great punishment, one can hardly go wrong at about fifteen cents a pop! The most often used colors are: white, yellow, and silver with either white, yellow, or pink tails.

For sometime, anglers have been going to extremes in an attempt to add flash to their flies. Most often this is accomplished through the use of tinsel or Mylar tubing. One such fly that has been responsible for some excellent catches in our waters incorporates "flash" as its main theme. I am not sure who the originator was of this style of fly, but it has been nicknamed the "tin can fly."

The original pattern can be dressed as follows: On a 1/0 hook, some carefully stacked and evened bucktail is tied on the shank, so that the tips extend approximately one inch past the bend, forming the tail. The butts are wrapped securely about the shank being trimmed about 3/16" behind the eye of the hook. From a tin can, a section approximately three-quarters of an inch long and five-eighths of an inch wide is cut out. One of the five-eighths of an inch wide section is made round. From this round end each side is tapered, forming a point at the opposite end. I have some Indian arrowheads that look exactly the same. This piece with

Polypropylene rope, some separated and dyed strands and "Cindy and Sandy" in completed form.



A close-up view of two size 1/0 poppers made from balsa wood.

the round end toward the eye is centered lengthwise on top of the shank. It must not be too long. While the round portion should be even with the front tie-off position, the rear portion must be slightly less than one-eighth of an inch in front of the rear windings. Trim, if necessary. Spread cement or epoxy on shank. Center the metal piece lengthwise on top of the shank and bend it around the hook, forming the "tapered body." Squeeze shut with pliers, if necessary.

A section of the larger diameter Mylar tubing, approximately an inch-and-a-quarter long with the core removed, is slid over the shank. Using a matching color thread, the rear portion is tied down, trimmed, whip finished, and coated with head cement. The front portion is tied down, trimmed, and a wing of bucktail is added. the bucktail wing should extend to the tips of the tail. The head of the fly is whip finished and coated with head cement.

The tying procedure seems complicated, but is really very simple for anyone who ties his own flies. Because of the problem of thread breakage when using a tin can, I use impression wax. I learned recently that the use of aluminum cans will also reduce this problem to a minimum. Patterns that are most productive have been white with a silver body and yellow with a gold body. As well as this fly, variations of the tin can fly have also been very productive. Variations include those with: no tail; a tail made of Mylar which is secured at the rear section, but is not trimmed; a much longer tail, and finally—a very long wing. A white body seems to be the better producer in the larger hook sizes.

Extended body flies are not at all new to fly fishing. They are not new to our area. Most anglers make the mistake of using extensions that are too large and fishing these flies in "quiet waters." Experienced fly rodders agree the overall length of the fly for our waters should be held to five inches or less. Also, the extended body fly is at its peak performance when fished in a good rip or substantial current flow. The majority of those having success with this fly have ignored the standard dressing and adopted the fuller-bodies technique used with the tin can fly. Instead of cutting an inch-and-a-quarter length of Mylar tubing, cut off about four inches. Rather than slide this length over the shank starting from the eye, snake on about an inch of tubing over the hook point. After about one inch is on covering the point and most of the bend, force the point through the Mylar. Slide the tubing part up to the eye. Then, tie off and trim. The extension, or rear portion, can be finished in a number of ways. Tails of splayed hackle tips, or bucktail can be tied into the extension. Or, a tail or Mylar can be made by tying off the Mylar about three-eighths of an inch from the end. The strands of Mylar are then separated. I mention here that tails should be added last. This is not common practice. I have found that I tie neater and more accurately in this manner.

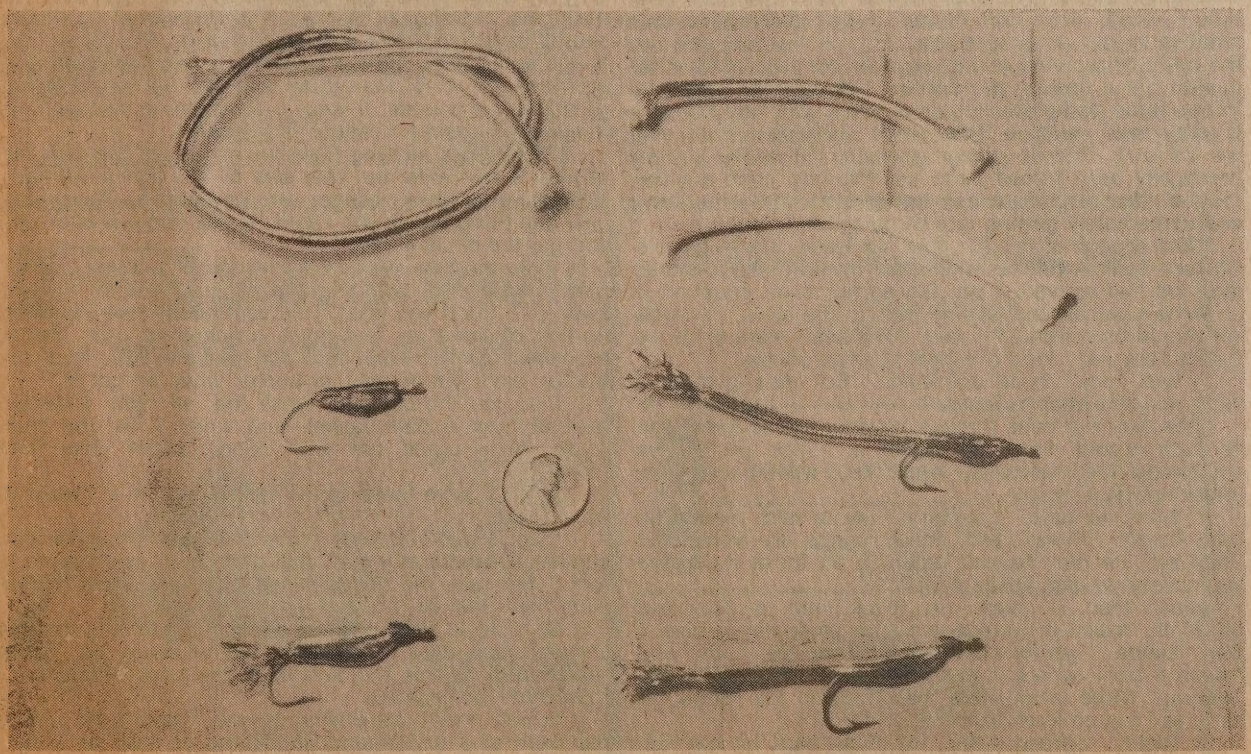
Wings made from bucktail, or bucktail topped with peacock herl are used most often. It is a beautiful fly when dressed properly. The extension body flies can be tied to imitate many forms of baitfish. In our area, it is most often tied to imitate the sand eel.

Polypropylene yarn has been used as a fly tying material for years. At approximately the same time, anglers on both the East and West Coast began to experiment with this material for use in saltwater patterns. Some of its properties make this material very desirable. It is very easy to work with, quite buoyant, and is somewhat translucent. At least three very productive patterns are in use here in our waters. One of the patterns is a shrimp imitator, while the other two are worm imitations.

The shrimp patterns are made from the polypropylene that has been dyed. Usual colors are white, grey, and yellow. The tyer's preference usually dictates the exact pattern, but all are tied with either a pink or vibrant yellow underbody. I almost always wrap an underbody and then reverse-tie the poly yarn. These flies have really done the trick during the night hours when fish are feeding on shrimp.

I discovered the use of worm imitations sometime during early 1974. At one of the "pay-for-play" trout fishing areas, I was fishing directly across from a fellow who absolutely murdered the fish. This is not so unusual at these areas, except that usually if one angler does very well, most others do likewise. That day he was about the only angler who did much of anything. It turned out that he was using what he called a worm fly which he said had been passed along to him. The fly

(Continued on page 13.)



The Tin Can Fly and the Extended Body Fly partially completed and fully constructed. Both flies are size 1/0.

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

FINDING CODFISH

Artie Leidecker asked, "What do you think, Matt...should we try it? You know—for old time's sake." We were codfishing on the old Ambrose Ridge south of the Tower and, discounting a few ling and whiting, were slowly being bored to tears with the lack of cod activity. "I don't know," I replied. "Maybe we ought to stick it out awhile longer. We sure got a mess of chum down there," I added, knowing full well what his reply would be. "We can always come back," he said. "So...what do you say?" I began to reel in. "Okay. Let's do it then." I suppose now, as the anchor is being pulled in, would be as good a time as any to explain that the "it" Artie had in mind was the Cholera Bank—but not the same Cholera Bank everyone fishes today. That lies south of Jones Beach, but the old one Artie referred to—the original Cholera Bank of old-timer's fame—lies southwest of the present one, about sixteen miles south of Long Beach and about twenty minutes south/southwest of the old Angler Bank. Why the transition was made from the old to the new area, I don't know (it may have been because of the Acid Stain contamination), but this change must have occurred during the war years. I know that when I returned from Service, the party boats I frequented no longer fished the area old-timers had always known as the Cholera Bank. Nor could I ever get a satisfactory explanation—one in which everyone agreed.

In fact, to make this even more confusing, there is another Cholera spot known as "East of Cholera," which lies exactly where its name implies and about two miles south of the popular piece of bottom known as the Southeast Ground. This area produces cod, plus the usual assortment of winter fish and is a great mackerel spot in May.

I also better explain that our trip was actually a fish finding expedition. Because it was mid-November and time for cod, Artie had invited a half-dozen local cod fanatics to join us aboard the "Echo" the next day for the initial trip of the winter season, but it was his idea to first get a line on the current fishing. We hoped to locate some cod-producing area we could rely on and thereby save valuable time. Artie often does this, and we usually find it advantageous. In fact, it has practically been forced upon us, for long gone are the days of dropping over any known cod-producing area and immediately getting into some action.

But enough of this for now. As I say, it was the old Cholera Bank Artie was interested in; and forty minutes later we had arrived. I got the anchor over, snubbed it on Artie's signal, and walked back to the stern. "Maybe we should be drifting," I said. "It's been years since we fished here and I kind of forget the fine points."

"Me, too," Artie admitted. "But let's give it a whirl and see what happens."

We sent our baits through seventy feet of water and as luck would have it, found a piece of bottom containing life. Bergalls. And they wasted no time attacking the skimmer.

"Matt, we better not chum," Artie said, reeling up bare hooks. "Good Lord, these things are voracious! They act like they haven't eaten in all those thirty-five years since we last fished here!"

Just then, I stuck my hook into a fair-sized blackfish, reeled it up nice and slow so as not to give it the "bends," gently removed it from the hook, and tossed it back, where it wasted no time scooting for the bottom. "More action here than back on the Ridge," I said, as I put on fresh skimmer.

"Right," agreed Artie. He came back on his rod. "And I got the mate to that one."

We caught maybe five, six more blacks, but no cod. We pulled anchor then and tried drifting, but that didn't do much, either: a couple of horned dogs, one good-sized whiting, and several fat ling.

And that was that for the old Cholera Bank.

It was discouraging to say the least. Here we had a half dozen guys coming down on us the next day and we had no place to take them that promised a chance at cod. Artie started the engine and pointed the bow northeast. "You know," he said. "Wouldn't it be something if those cod were inshore. Like south of Buoy Two off Jones Inlet."

All of a sudden, I knew he was right. Don't ask me how I knew; I just knew. I guess when you fish with an excellent cod hunter like Artie for over fifty years, something rubs off. I was so sure of myself I even brought out the new buoy we'd made up the week before. It would be put to use, no question about it. I pawed through the sliced skimmer bucket and selected the older, softer stuff and put it aside. I'm a great believer in soft skimmer for cod. Not stale, mind you—just the stuff that no longer has any life to it. Using this kind of bait for cod was a trick I'd picked up many years ago. When cod are around, they will take that in preference to the fresh stuff.

It took the better part of an hour to arrive at our destination and Artie spent minutes circling around a bit before he was satisfied. What he was looking for, I didn't know, and he didn't say. There are some things even I won't ask him. (By checking my chart later, and unknown to me at the time, I discovered a six-foot-high spot in the area. Evidently, this is what Artie was checking out.)

We began the first drift and I guess ten minutes had passed when I experienced that clairvoyant feeling codfishermen recognize when they are about to get action. I can't fully explain this, but it is a common feeling, one shared by many codfisherman. I lifted the rod cautiously, felt weight, and drove the hook home with a good, solid follow through. I had my first cod of the year! I was "out of the book," as we used to say.

Artie immediately tossed over the buoy, reeled in his rig, and picked up the gaff. The cod felt pretty good and the harder it pounded, the more I was sure of it. Nursing that battling cod slowly through the depths, and praying every time it stopped my reel cold with its struggles, I gradually worked it up to where we finally caught a flashing glint of its white belly. From then on, it was easy, and a minute later, Artie reached down and sank the gaff. Over the rail came a cod that would easily go thirty-five pounds. It wasn't a monster as cod go, but it was the largest I'd caught in five years.

With hopes running high, we continued the drift for at least a half mile; but that was all the action we had. Not a ling, whiting, conger eel, or dogfish. There was only one thing left to do: return to the buoy, anchor up, and get the chum going.

"We must have drifted away from a small pod of fish," Artie said, bringing the Echo around in a wide sweep. "I'll tell you what," he continued, "we'll anchor up-tide of the buoy and pour the chum to 'em. You'll probably have to dip into tomorrow's bait, but no matter; we'll put on another bushel when we get in."

I poured the chum to those cod, all right. I batted over at least a half bushel, and when I lay the club aside, Artie urged me on. "More, Matt! Give 'em more!"

"You'll have these cod to hell and gone if I keep it up," I said.

"No, I won't," Artie replied. "I got this tide and current figured pretty good and that chum won't move a foot." He gave me the cold eye I know so well. "You want fish? Just do it, damn it!"

So I did it. With the bottom of the bait tub already showing and only a few more skimmer to go, Artie reared back on his rod and sunk the hook into a cod. "Gotcha!" he grunted.

Which wasn't surprising to me. There's no one I fish with who understand codfishing as well as Artie.

This fish, however, wasn't big, weighing about nine pounds, and when I shook it from the gaff, Artie said, "There's got to be more down there. Let's get 'em while the getting's good!"

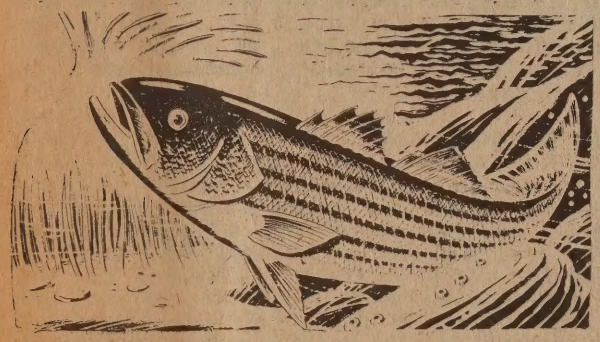
And get 'em we did. We finished the day with seven more: none as large as the first one; the closest being a shade over twenty pounds, which Artie caught. But not a bad day all around considering the way some of the codfishing had been at that time. (Foreign fishing fleets, etc.)

I know I've gone into great detail to describe the foregoing events, but it is the only way I can show just what today's codfisherman out on his own must contend with. As I said before, long gone are the days of easy codfishing.

I'm glad that I know a fisherman such as Artie Leidecker. When I teamed up with him many years ago, I was the luckiest of the lucky. I readily admit that not only have I learned much about codfish from him; but no matter how much I try on my own, I never catch as many cod as when we fish together. He might be a pain in the rump at times and an old grump, but that's easy to bear. Truly, the fine points of the game are his.

As for the following day's fishing with those six buddies of Artie's, we, of course, returned to Buoy #2. I didn't bother to fish, but instead made myself generally useful: gaffing fish, cutting bait, etc.—kind of harking back to my party boat-mating days. Artie fished a bit in the morning and then spent the afternoon taking sounds of the area as we drifted around. These he placed on a chart of his own making, which he said he'd share with me sometime. That was five years ago, and I'm still waiting. Oh, well.

Those six fellows accounted for seventeen cod that day. Most were average, running between six and ten pounds. The largest was nowhere near as big as my thirty-five pounder of the day before. Which is something to be thankful for. Thanks, Artie.



FLY RODDING

(Continued from page 11.)

was about two inches long and was tied using amber/red maribou. For use at this particular location, it was heavily weighted. It was very simple to correlate the use of this fly to the small worms that always frequent our waters sometimes during June or July. Many names are used around the area for these worms. On the South Shore, they are commonly referred to as "cinder worms." For many anglers, they are a curse. Most fish will feed on this prevalent bait supply and there is simply no imitation. Not so for the fly rodder!

The names for the two worm imitations are almost too cute to be believed...who cares—they work! For the cinder worm, there is "Cindy" and for the sand worm, there is "Sandy."

The color of flies has never changed, only the material. Polypropylene yarn, separated from polypropylene rope, dyed to the correct color, is used. "Cindy" has a length of about two inches; while "Sandy" is about five to six inches. The polypropylene is tied in at the eye position and the excess is trimmed. The thread is then wound over the poly to the portion of the shank directly over the point of the hook. A single piece of the poly yarn is tied in at this position and the thread is wound back to the eye. The poly yarn is then twisted and wound back up to the eye. The poly yarn is then twisted and wound back up the shank of the hook creating a segmented effect. It is tied off, trimmed and whipped finished. With a little head cement added, the fly is finished.

At the times when the "cinder worm" is around, the fly fisherman is rewarded with perhaps the most dynamic fishing of the year. Anglers from the North Shore often have a longer and better fishing period.

"Sandy" works anywhere, performing best on sinking lines. Many anglers fishing the surf have realized the affinity for weakfish and bass to accept either red or black worm imitations at times. Yet many of these same anglers will go back to these same areas and use the traditional large white fly. Don't get me wrong; the traditional pattern works. But "Sandy" at times, cannot be beaten!

There are a group of dedicated anglers and fly tyers who have meetings twice a month. They are non-competitive and are very simply dedicated to the cause of fly tying and fly fishing. The group is known as the Long Island Fly Tyers (L.I.F.T.). The meetings, which are really fly tying sessions, are held in the Bowery Savings Bank in Massapequa. There is perhaps no better starting point on the Island for novice tyers.

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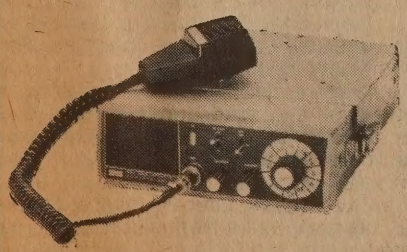

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Flounder on Corn

by J. Chad

It can come from the land of the Jolly Green Giant, or simply be in one of those drab generic cans; the fish really don't have a preference—they gobble it up, and if you have a way to include a hook with it when you present it, you'll be catching flounder with the bright yellow kernels quicker than if you had sand worms on the end of your flounder rig.

But before I get into the way of presenting a corn-baited hook to a flounder, a fact that has usually only been associated with sharks and bluefish has to be understood. Sharks, bluefish, flounder? Right now you're probably thinking that I've been kept out in the sun a little too long, or that I've inhaled a bit too much diesel exhaust. Well, that might be true, but as far as a feeding frenzy, you be the judge.

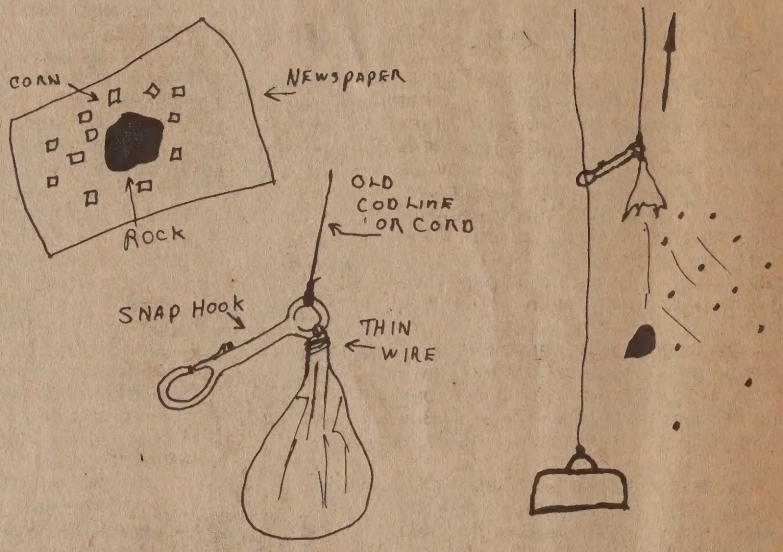
Feeding frenzy is what I said and it relates to flounder and corn in the same way it relates to sharks and bluefish.

You know, or you've heard, that blues and sharks can go berserk and start chomping up any and everything in the water. Well, flounder can do the same and what that happens, it can happen with something besides worms...and that something is corn.

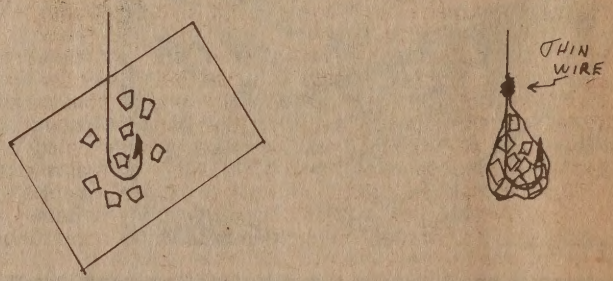
Like many of you, I've used corn as flounder chum for years. I found kernels of the stuff in the bellies of fish I've caught. I also discovered when the flounder are hitting slow, handfuls of corn thrown off the bow usually get the fish active for a little while. But this, at best, was a hit-or-miss affair because by the time the kernels got down to where the flounder rigs were they were so dispersed that their effectiveness was greatly diminished. What had to be done was to devise a way to concentrate the corn in a small area; an area in which the flounder rigs lay.

Simply throwing the stuff over the side was no good; so I tried a little device that I call the bottom proximity corn ejector. This is nothing more than some corn and a rock in a piece of newspaper. It is lowered to near the bottom a few feet upcurrent from my flounder rigs with the aid of a snap hook running down an anchored line.

I let the paper get soggy for a few minutes, then give a sharp jerk. The rock tears out the bottom of the paper, sending the corn spilling out in the direction of my flounder rigs and the old feeding frenzy starts.



Wrap some kernels and a rock up in newspaper, fold it into a ball, then tie off with thin wire. In the process, wrap the wire into the eye of a snap hook. Clip the other eye of the hook to a piece of old line and let it slide to the bottom. When you jerk on the line, the newspaper will break, spilling corn kernels in a concentrated area.



Author's method of keeping corn kernels on a hook. See story for details.

This lights the flounder off like nothing I've ever seen and if I've got sand worms on my spreaders a good number of the fish get taken. But if my spreaders are baited with corn...well, then it's fish after fish after fish until the chum gets depleted.

Making the bottom proximity corn ejector was a lot simpler than devising a way to get corn and hook in front of the flounder. Just putting the kernels on the hook wasn't any good—the current would usually tear them off and if not, the flounder would get the kernels more often that I could get the flounder. Something had to be done to keep corn and hook together in a way that would catch flounder.

Panty hose was the answer: the ultra-sheer kind. Ask your lady for an old pair instead of cutting up good ones, because the sense of humor of some women can be a bit limited. However you get the article is your own business; just make sure it's the sheerest made. All you have to do is cut out small squares of the material. Into those squares go a few kernels of corn and a flounder hook and the square is tied off with thin wire a ways up the hook shank. Sometimes one of these rigs will take a dozen fish; sometimes one fish. I've made up a bunch of rigs beforehand and keep them soaking right in the corn can until I need a replacement.

Using the corn for bait in conjunction with the bottom proximity corn ejector is a little more work than just simply baiting it with sand worms and trusting to luck; but it also takes more flounder. I recommend you give it a try.

A Fall Tradition

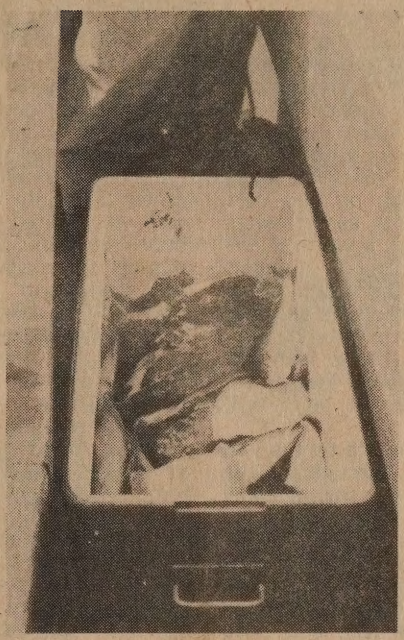
by Skip Fleet

According to that oft quoted Mr. Webster, a tradition is defined as "the handing down of customs, practices, doctrines, etc." In that vein, the annual trek my daughter and I make up to that flounder heaven known as Quincy Bay is indeed a tradition. Ever since we sampled the fishing there several years ago, we've been hooked on the place. It just wouldn't be a "complete" fall if we didn't pack the freezer with fresh Quincy flounder fillets.

After weeks, and even months, of chasing bass and blues up and down the coast, a restful trip aboard one of the boats of the Quincy Bay Flounder Fleet is, to say the least, a change of pace. Those flatties may not possess the speed or power of a hungry bass or blue, but mark my words that when the action gets fast and furious even the "doubters" will be caught up in the excitement. The joys of "double-headers" and two pounders will take the place of cow-sized linesiders or teen-size blues—even if only temporarily.

In all the trips I've made up Beantown way, I really can't say I ever experienced any "bad days." The closest we came to that, I guess, was the very first trip. That one was in late spring and the average was probably twenty fish per person. Even a so-called "bad day" on the waters of Quincy Bay will usually result in more and bigger winter flounder than you might get on a "good day" somewhere else. If you're fortunate enough to hit a super day at Quincy, well, I'll wager it will defy description. Still very vivid in my memory is a trip last October when everybody pretty well loaded up with fish. A pair of "first-timers" from New Jersey were obviously overwhelmed with the superb fishing. On a number of occasions they stopped, gazed into their rapidly filling cooler, and remarked, "there aren't this many flounder in the whole State of New Jersey." A "slight" exaggeration perhaps; but the meaning is certainly clear. Ask anyone who's been up that-a-way and they'll tell you the same thing. The bottom of Quincy Bay appears to be paved with hungry flounder; so if you're interested in filling your freezer with tasty white fillets, this is certainly the place to go.

While a number of boat liveries offer small outboard skiffs ideally suited to the protected Bay waters, I am overwhelmingly partial to sailing



Coolers usually fill up when flatfishing in Quincy.

aboard one of the boats of the Quincy Bay Flounder Fleet. These boats and their able captains are out on the flounder grounds just about everyday. They know where and when to go, and with a minimum of several dozen multiple hook rigs dangling from as many rods, who needs to worry about bringing along the chum pot.

The Fleet operates three party boats out of their facility at Fisherman's Wharf in Dorchester: the forty-seven passenger "Rosemarie"; the thirty-eight passenger "Lady Lil" and the thirty-two passenger "Marshwind." They'll be sailing right up through the end of November and perhaps even into the early part of December. The boats leave the dock at 8AM, returning at 3PM. These hours give you plenty of time on the fishing grounds, as well as sufficient time to fillet your catch before returning home. Many anglers from New York, New Jersey, etc., even come for several days of fishing, stashing their catch until the "big ride" home in the Fleet's sizable refrigerated storage area.

The adult fare for these full day outings is $15, with children under the age of twelve going along for only $10. A nice feature, too, is the $10 fare for senior citizens. Not a bad price in these days of inflation and penny pinching, especially when you consider that your first dozen sand worms is included in that amount. Between their normal duties, the mates aboard each of the three boats "keep busy" by filleting fish for a scant ten cents apiece. Corner them early, though; because most days it's virtually impossible for them to keep up with all of the fish hauled over the rails. And stop and think about it: for five or six bucks, plus a tip you could walk off the docks at the end of the day with fifty or sixty fillets instead of with the task of cleaning that many before you climb behind the wheel and hit the highways. If you prefer to do your own filleting, however, there are tables set up for that purpose right at the docks.

Your catch won't be strictly limited to winter flounder. At this time of the year, the harbor pollack are apt to be fairly abundant. These twelve to fourteen inch fish are fun to catch and very tasty on the dinner table. A lot of anglers toss them back as they are a bit more work to clean, but fried in Italian bread crumbs, they're worth every second of it. Cod move in around now too, so don't be surprised if you latch on to one. Last year I grabbed two, the best a five-and-a-half pounder; while daughter Chrissa kept her string alive by taking another small one. And believe it or not, there's a good bet somebody on the boat will haul up a lobster that went for his sea worm bait. A word of advice here: don't try to pull it out of the water until a mate is nearby with a long-handled net.

Getting to the docks has been the toughest part of the trip for a good many out-of-towners, but I think we can solve that problem with some time-tested directions. And if this angling scribe can get there and back without getting lost—surely you can do likewise. Since most of you are apt to be journeying up from Rhode Island, Connecticut, or other states to the south, we'll tackle it with that in mind.

Proceed north on I-95 past Providence until I-95 meets Mass. Route 128. Take 128 south until you see the South Shore Plaza (shopping mall in Braintree) on your right. Swing over into the left lane of the highway here as the road forks ahead. At that fork, exit #69, bear left and you'll be on Route #3 headed for Boston and Quincy (north). Continue for three miles to exit #21, Neponset/Brookline. Get

(**Continued on page 29.**)

FALL FLATFISH

by Gerald Hahn

Sometimes I think there must be a better way to fish than trying frantically to catch every species in Long Island. That is when I am reminded of some old-timers for whom the revolving door of predators and bottom feeders is meaningless. It makes little difference to them whether blues and weaks appear one month, or tautog and porgies another, for they are die-hard, dedicated flounder fishermen from spring through fall. With years of experience gained from concentrating on one fish, they are the first to wet a line in early spring when flatfish stir the mud, and the last to dunk a worm in the face of an autumn storm. Even during the summer, when most anglers are drifting along the South Shore bays for perhaps ten fluke, they go about their business quietly catching fifty flounders from an anchored boat. For these one-fish specialists, spring means lean but quantity flounders; summer signifies fatter but fewer flounders, and fall represents the fattest and most aggressive flounders.

At Moriches Bay, for example, some old-timers fish for flounders once or twice a week throughout the season. They know every deep hole in this shallow waterway; every cove, point, and river mouth from the Smith Pt. Bridge to the Westhampton Bridge, twelve miles away. In general, most of the flounders show up at the east end in the spring. By summer they spread out all over the bay, and by fall, the season usually comes to a symmetrical climax in the east end once again.

October and November are the best months to fish for flounders. At the start, the fish may be of mixed lengths, but this means little because a nine inch fall flounder is thicker than a ten inch one in the spring. Once the fishing becomes consistent, some large ones over two pounds can be taken. On the one hand, fall fishing is more difficult than in the spring because the fish are not as concentrated. On the other hand, there is less competition in the fall when so many other species are around to pre-occupy fishermen.

Light tackle is best here for several reasons. The bay is shallow and the current relatively slow. Consequently, sinker weight rarely exceeds an ounce. Furthermore, it is not only more exciting to play these larger flatfish with lighter tackle, but also easier to detect a hit when the fishing is slow. A six or seven foot light spinning rod with a small freshwater reel filled with six to eight pound test is more than adequate. For those who really want to enjoy fall flounder fishing at its best, however, try four pound test and watch the line stretch like a rubber band when a big flattie takes the bait. You will have your hands full on a double-header. Connect a two-hook bottom rig to a small snap swivel tied to the main line with an improved clinch knot. Put the sinker on the snap and add the snelled hooks, two, twelve inch leaders of twenty pound test and two #10, long-shanked Chestertowns—one snell tied to the middle of the other. Small #1 Beak or Claw hooks with sliced shanks, commonly used for porgies, are just as good. In fact, I bring along a few still smaller, freshwater Claw hooks on ten pound test leaders, just in case the fish are shy. Some anglers dispense with the snap and tie an end loop for the sinker and a dropper loop an inch or two above, for the hooks. Most flounder fishermen no longer use the once popular spreader bar rig; but in all fairness, they do catch fish. Because flounders are curious bottom dwellers, the metal bar and red beads may attract them. However, on windy days spreaders also attract great amounts of seaweed and, of course, the fish hardly has a chance to put up a fight against such a cumbersome rig.

A chum pot should be brought along for this kind of fishing, as well, filled with cracked mussels or clam bellies. Some people dispense with a pot and instead, scatter bits of corn, rice, crushed eggshells, or cat food to attract flounders. Either way, chumming works better than not. Anchor at a likely spot, lower the chum pot or scatter the chum on the up-current side of the boat and work your baited rig as close to the chum as you can. Blood, sand and earth worms are best here—although mussels and clams can also be used. Some people dye their clams with food coloring in yellow or red. And their sinkers, as well, in fluorescent versions of the same hues. Small pieces of worm should be used, leaving only a trace dangling below the point. Mussels are more difficult to work with and generally catch more flounders here in the spring. Thread the firm part on carefully, twisting it several times until it is as secure as possible. Avoid casting with this bait, for it is likely to come apart. Clams are baited in a similar fashion and being tougher, will last longer. Combinations of any of these baits will work better some days than a single bait. But remember to keep the pieces small, in all cases. A good flounder fisherman can catch three or four flatfish on a single worm segment. In fact, if the fish are feeding ravenously under your boat, you can catch them with the most rancid, shredded pieces of bait—the kinds you would normally discard.

When the fish are not heavily concentrated, however (a common occurrence in the fall), then you have to experiment a little. Try bouncing the rig a little by raising the rod and lowering it. The sinker will strike the mud below and create a "puff of smoke." Casting and dragging the sinker along the bottom is another variation. The bottom can be stirred, as well, by bouncing the chum pot or dragging the anchor to dislodge the microorganisms on which flounders feed. Any nearby flatfish will immediately be drawn to the disturbance. Should none of these efforts be fruitful after twenty minutes, however, then you have two choices: you can move to a nearby or distant spot and anchor again, or you can drift—a method I prefer. Flounders will take baits on a drift, which is why I usually anchor first on the up-current side of a spot. Then I can drift with the current through the area until I get a hit, at which time the anchor is dropped again. Even on a slow day, there are usually several flounders in one place and a decent catch can be made by alternately anchoring and drifting.

When a flounder hits the bait, it needs a moment to inhale it. With small mouths and no teeth, flounders must suck in a soft bait. Give it a second after you detect a nibble, then raise the rod slowly. The fish will then leap up, engulf the bait, and dive back immediately to the bottom. This is when you will feel several strong tugs, and raising the rod with your wrist sets the hook. But fall flounders are usually more aggressive than sluggish spring flounders and many will pounce on the bait forcefully and practically set the hook themselves. All you have to do is play the fish and bring it over the side. If you leave the rig on the bottom briefly, with one fish on, another flounder may soon join it and you will have a double-header.

In the fall, most of the flounder fishing at Moriches takes place between buoy 42 and the higher numbered buoys. This eastern area is defined by the Quantuck

(Continued on page 22.)

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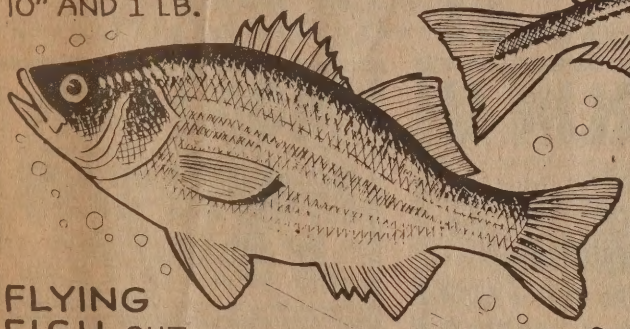

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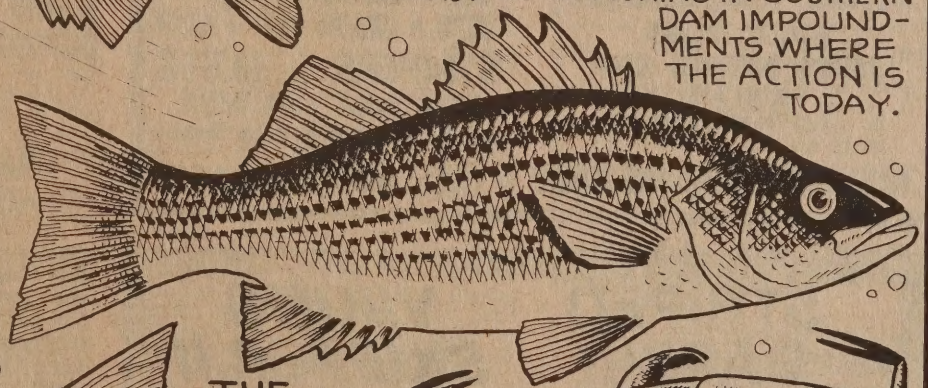

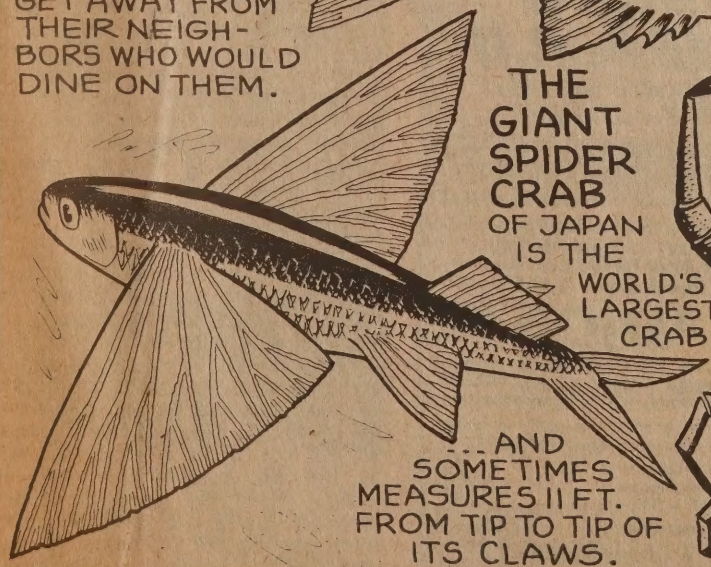

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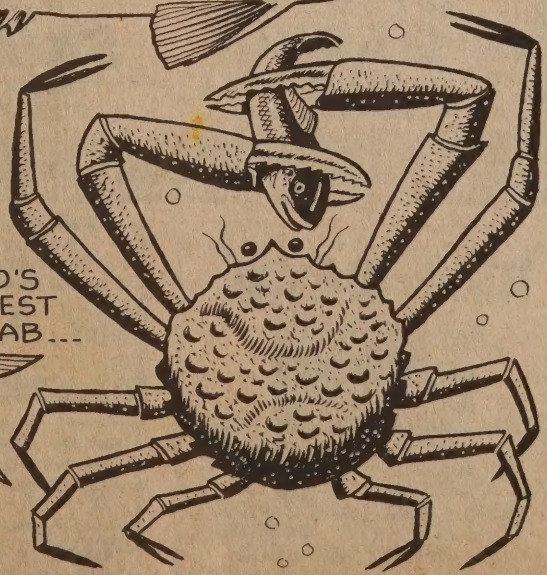

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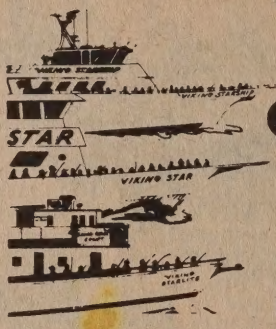

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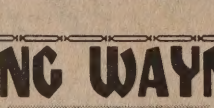

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NATIONAL SCENE

(Continued from page 7.)

Secretary of Commerce (a) improve the observer program by reducing the turnover rate so that observers can develop skills to perform both biological sampling and compliance duties, and by assuring that foreign violations identified by observers are processed in a timely manner; and (b) require that observer reports be used on a routine basis to verify the catch reported by foreign vessels, and (c) make sure that penalties for violations are assessed and collected in a timely fashion.

The GAO report says a lot of things that have long been quite obvious to all those following the subject. The recommendations are good ones, but hardly unique. The basic problem has been, and will probably continue to be, the incompetency of the NMFS bureaucracy—and their inability or unwillingness to deal with obvious problems. Just as they've ignored Congress in putting down the Councils, they'll probably ignore the GAO and continue wasting the taxpayers' money, while failing to achieve the conservation aims envisioned in the Act.

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

Captain Buddy Dormar of the **Viking Skipper II** called to say he's hanging occasional king size bass on an almost daily basis now. Sunday saw Lou Crispino of Monroe, N.Y. bag an estimated 35 lb. striper squidding. There was another good sized bass taken Sunday and they had a good catch of blues as well, much better than last week's. Buddy asked us to advise you that this coming Sunday, November 18, all reservations have been filled.

Captain Ron of the charter boat **Julie III** and party led by Paul LaVacca from Servus Reproductions Inc. on Ron's last trip of the season caught 70 blacks from 3-9½ lbs. Two of thee fish hit 8½ lbs. There was also a 1½ b. flounder taken, all at Gull Island. Ro wishes all of his friends and patrons ahappy and healthy new year.

Captain Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** tells of reall good fishing last week. Sunday's chater had a super blackfish trip takin 60-70 blackfish which averaged 4 lbs and ran up to 10 lbs. An even dozen cd were also boated up to 12 lbs. and mixd blues. This was in water ranging frm 80-130' on the south side on gree crab. Mike says there are bass beig taken north of Montauk in the luiceway and he believes we may stl be in for another shot of bass at the Dint.

When we called Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishig Fleet** was out on the last Nantucke wreck trip of the season, which we will report on next week. Paul's wife Betty, said that the porgy fishing wa still good off Block Island and the odfishing has been picking up a litt off Block Island now that there isn't so many doggies around.

The most recent "Viking Starship" Nantucket wreck trip produced these pool winners. The three od went from 53 to 59 lbs., while the pollack weighed in at 32 lbs.

Joyce Goll hefts a 16½ lb. chopper that she landed on 20 lb. test at Montauk. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

On a recent trip aboard Captain Phil Lewis' charter boat **Adios** a party of five brought in 7 bass plus a mess of bluefish. Bass fishing has been a little spotty this week, but Friday was good with 11 stripers and a bonus 25 lb. pollack. One day you'll get a few bass and the next day none, but there's still quite a few bluefish around and the boat has been taking about 50 a trip. The bass were also somewhat smaller. Sunday's catch was a mixed bag of two bass, a bluefish and a weakfish.

Captain John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** reported that there are still bass around, but it may be all over by the weekend. On his four charters this week, scores were zero, six, eight, and eleven. On Tuesday night, John and Scott Simons took 9 bass with a combined weight of 300 lbs. casting bucktails at night under the moon. John went back the following night with his friend Frank Buccanan and took 6 bass, all over 25 lbs., the largest 41 lbs., casting bucktails and 12 and 15 lb. test line.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that last week John Thomas of Hicksville on his boat "Baby B" caught 17 flounder at the North Bar using mussels. All the fish were in the 2 lb. plus range, and the largest tipped the scales at 3½ lbs. Henry said there's also good flounder activity along Gin Beach. Bass fishing is just about over, but blackfishing and cod are off to a good start at Cartwright. Little Gull Island is also producing excellent catches of mixed size blackfish, but thus far, the action has been disappointing at Shagwong and Cerberus Shoals.

Captain Wayne King of the charter boat **King Wayne** called to say that Saturday he had a charter for Buddy Miles and friends on which they loaded up with blackfish up to 10 lbs., fishing Little and Great Gull Islands using clam and green crab. Sunday's charter for Michael Napoli at Block Island resulted in a catch of over 100 blues.

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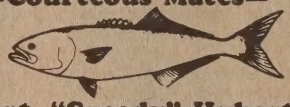

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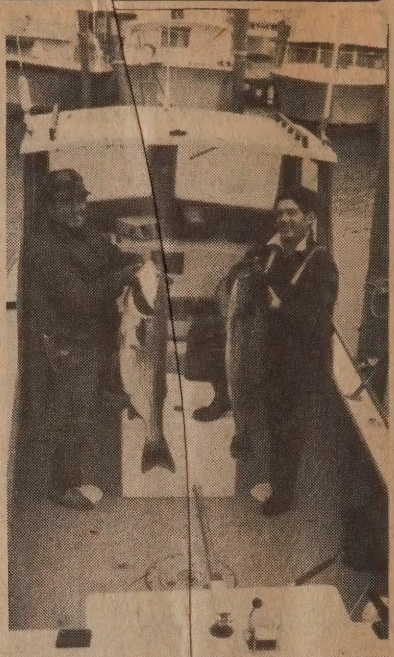

SSU

Lou Rosado and Ken Turco with a pair of big stripers taken at Montauk on trolled plugs. Photo courtesy of "Star Island Yacht Club"

Kevin, Jimmy and Roger took 11 stripers up to 6 lbs. on Ava jigs aboard the charter boat "Vivienne."

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SOUTH FORK
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FLOUNDER

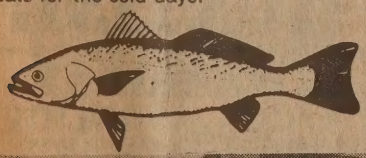
SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** described the flounder fishing at Shinnecock as decent. He named the Basket area and the Canal as being two of the better producing spots. Flatties have been running up to 1¼ lbs. Thom asked us to remind customers that he will carry fresh worm and clam bait into December.

MORICHES BAY

Chet at **B&B Tackle** reports flounder of decent size being caught on Forge River, Harts and Seatuck Coves. These are fish in the 3/4 lb. category and they are thick and meaty. There are still blueclaw crabs to be had in the channel. There are areas you might hit larger flounder, but you'll find them fewer in quanity. It's worms and mussel chum for flounder. The area of the bridges and buoy 17 are producing tommycod.

Larry at **L&M Marine** reports that although the weekend was rained out and blown out, good flounder catches were made during the week. Jim Green and Wendel McCullough bagged 170 keeper flounder to 1½ lbs. fishing Seatuck Cove. Irene LaSala and Frank Spinka ended up with 93 keeper flounder also fishing Seatuck Cove. Bob Bereck and Saul and Eddie Rishty yanked 130 keepers from the water up to 1½ lbs., plus some blueclaw crabs at buoys 46 and 54. Plenty of flounder around, says Larry hitting blood and sand worms and responding to corn or mussel chum on any moving tide. Larry says he'll be open to December and he has cabin boats for the cold days.



John Stellingwerf, Frank Hetrick, and Len Wolek with a fine catch of 100+ flounder taken at buoy 54 on bloodworms. The trio also had 40 blueclaw crabs. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

CAPTREE

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** tells us bluefish are still going crazy at Patchogue's "Outer Ledge". Friday saw 3 good fishermen boat 2,000 lbs. of blues on jigs. These were all 2-5 lb. fish. Big blues are dead on the bottom with smaller blues higher up. The boat is continually returning to the dock early as passengers arms' are completely worn out by midday. An occasional alligator is hung. George says some really big tuna are around in the 200-500 lb. class which passengers occasionally hook but find it impossible to hold much less bring to gaff. Water temp is still 54° as of Sunday and as long as the temp remains this high the blues will be with us.

Captain Dan Juetner of the **Captain Joseph II** said that on Tuesday, fares managed 7 cod, 4 of which ran from 25-35 lbs. Bob Pace had the pool winner, In addition to the cod, loads of sea bass and porgies up to 4.5 lbs. came aboard. On Sunday, 11 cod, with several in the 20-30 lb. class were landed. Blues up to 18 lbs. and quite a few sea bass were also taken. The captain has been fishing a couple of favorite inshore wrecks south of Fire Island.

Captain Carl Bauer of the **Capt. Whittaker** called the flounder action in Sunday's rain quite an improvement over last week's fishing. The flatties were much improved in size with quite a few around the 1 lb. mark. Anglers averaged 8-20 fish per man on clams and worms. Fishing was done in the State Channel at Tobay. As for the bluefishing off of Patchogue, John Donahue and Bobby Keller fished aboard the **Speedy VI** one day last week and unloaded 29 jumbo choppers at the dock. The fish, which went to 15 lbs., were all taken on diamond jigs.

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil of the **Casey Lee** reports flounder catches gradually improving to the tune of 12 or 15 keepers per man off Babylon and Gilgo. Neil would like everyone to know that the boat's last trip for the season will be Sunday, November 25...and they'll resume sailing in early March.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle reports Sunday saw blues and weaks offshore of Patchogue and at the NA buoy. Closer in in 40' of water both east and west of the inlet on jigs or umbrellas. Three to five lb. blues and weaks of mixed sizes plus a few stripers are being boated. There are a lot of fish close to the beach just beyond the range of surf casters. One customer who braved the elements Sunday in this area on his open center console boat jigged and umbrellaed a "load" of blues and weaks. Ski says the flounder catches are not up to par. There

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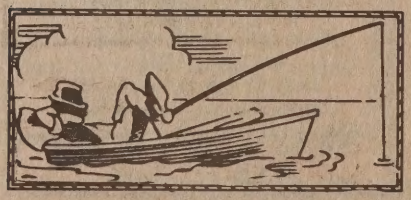

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FALL FLATFISH

(Continued from page 16.)

Canal, Quogue Canal, and Westhampton Bridges. Some deep holes can be located between buoys 42 and 43; and although the deeper areas are generally closer to the northern mainland, I have taken fish on the south side, as well. Some seasons, the fish spread out more and they can be caught in the cuts leading to Moriches Inlet, as well as off Haven Pt., east of the Coast Guard Station. Consequently, if you are heading east from one of the numerous fishing stations near the inlet, it pays to make a few dropoffs here.

Try to go out during a period of calm weather with tidal changes during the day. This will give you clear water and a chance to fish both tides. On an average day, the hottest periods are usually before or after slack water; but on a good day, you will catch flounders almost without a stop. If the weather is on the cool side, you may also catch porgies and small sea bass. If it is a warm autumn, bring along a net and fill a bucket with blue claw crabs while you are flounder fishing. With the price of flounder fillets these days, flatfishing in the fall is probably the best investment you can make. Maybe the old-timers are right.

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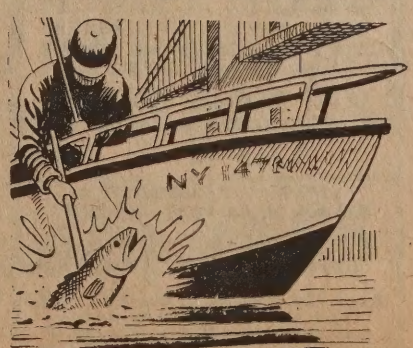

★FREEPORT★

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Bruce Boehmche of New Rochelle checked in this 16½ lb. blue at the Oak Beach Store.

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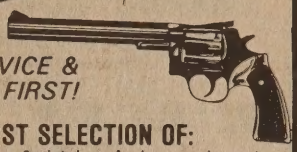

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are a few decent sized fish around but not many. In the Amityville area there's quantity but no quality on the flounder. Plenty of big dogfish offshore. An occasional bluefish blitz from the beaches on most anything when the fish come in. And an occasional bass is also taken from the beach on bait.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SEAFORD

Pop's Fishing Station reports although the weather has been uncooperative, those few hardy fishermen who ventured out to the waters have been rewarded with some nice sized flounder. Red Duenges from Ridgewood got 40 keepers and indicated the number of throwbacks is decreasing. The largest fish was 2¼ lbs., fishing on incoming tide using worms, corn as a chum with mussels. In general, there are a lot of fish and those who are out are producing. The Fishing Station will be closed on November 22, Thanksgiving Day.

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle tells us lots of flounder being caught at Four Corners, the west side of the 2nd bridge, both sides of the 3rd Wantagh and in the State Channel at Gilgo at Wanser's cut. Lon says chumming is very important. The keeper ratio is much better now. Some crabs around also so bring a trap. Lon weighed in a 33 lb. striper Sunday taken off Gilgo in 25' of water by Bob

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FIRST TO THE FISHING GROUNDS!
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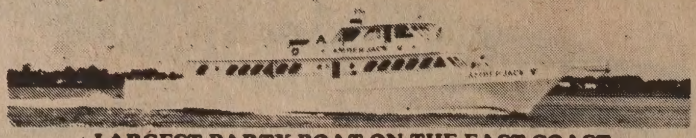
★SHEEPSHEAD BAY★

★NEW AMBERJACK V★



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BLUEFISH! 7A.M. DAILY ★ 6A.M. Sat., Sun. & Hol. ★ 7PM Wed., Thur., Fri. & Sat. Nites
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"BABE"
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PILOT II
★6AM DAILY★
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(212) 258-7070 PIER 7, Sheepshead Bay

Marcel of Wantagh and Dave Richards of Seaford, along with 30, 3-5 lbs. blues. The bass was squidded and the blues were jigged off Ocean Beach on A-27's. Generall jigging and trolling is producing decent catches of blues, weaks and a few bass in about 20-40' of water running both east and west out of Jones Inlet.

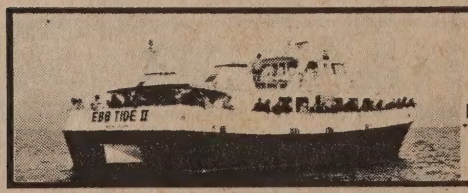
BELLMORE

The Singing Dog at **Merrick Tackle** reports bass being taken on J-8's (Charlie Graves) at Gilgo and Cedar. These are mostly schoolies. Larger fish being taken on eels and bunker. Some bass and a good number of smaller bluefish being trolled both east and west of the JI buoy. Lots of flounder around, but on the small side.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** says plenty of flounder caught this past week in Baldwin and Middle Bays on worm and clam chum. Fish running bigger now and he's weighed in a couple that ran to 2 lbs. (Middle Bay). Flounder averaging 3/4 to 1 lbs. and one-third are keepers. Dr. Stu Bernstein fished Cholera Thursday and had big blues which fell to bunker chunks 3 turns off the bottom.

★CITY ISLAND★



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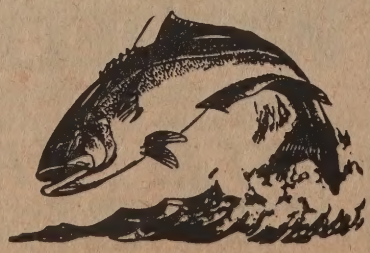

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★ 7:30 AM DAILY ★
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WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★ MIXED BAG

FREEPORT

The Capt. Al now zeroing in on cod on his famous Cow Country trips reports Sunday saw several good cod plus catches of sea bass and large blues. Manhattan angler Ben Hiura had a 30 lb. cod. Fred Mokros of Richmond Hill boated a 25 lb. cod. Shortly thereafter Frank Mokros of Bay Shore brought up a 22 lb. cod. All this action took place off the south shore while wreck fishing, skimmer clam on the hook.

Please note new sailing time schedule in ad for the boat's cow country cod trips.

Bob at **Hook, Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle** tells us he weighed in two, 13 lb. blues plus a 12 lber. that were taken at Cholera on Sunday. Excellent quantities of flounder are available around the bridges, high flats drain, Randall Bay, Long and Swift Creeks. This is on worms and clam or mussel chum. Bob weighed in a 150 lb. yellowfin tuna which was caught at the mud hole Thursday on a fresh whiting, fishing behind a dragger. A couple of 26 lb. stripers were bucktailed at the Meadowbrook Bridge during the week.

The **Aloma II** reports they have been having excellent blackfish catches at local wrecks all week long, with blacks going up to 8 lbs. Catches of big porgies and medium sized sea bass are also filling out anglers bags.

The **Capt. Lou II** sailed flounder Monday through Saturday and had excellent catches says Skipper Mike Dannon. The fish are getting bigger although there are still lots of midgets around. The keeper ratio is increasing. Mike is working the local creeks. On Sunday the **Capt. Lou III** sailed and had another big flounder day. High hook all week ranges in the 50s. Big fish of the week touched 2 lbs. Mike says come on down and fill your freezer up now and he also asked us to remind you that he's now the only early sailing all-day flounder boat on the canal.

One tuna, one blue and three bonito for the crew of the Lorna Joyce. Photo courtesy of the Charvin Fishing Station.

Captain Richie of the **Starstream II** reports excellent blackfishing. Sunday was probably the best day of the week, with most anglers filling a 5-gal. bucketful of blackfish to 7 lbs. Larry McCall of Amityville had roughly 55 blacks from 1-7 lbs. The crowds are light and the fishing is at local wrecks, two ideal conditions under which to fish. There were also some blues taken on the blackfish hooks tipped with clam bait. Richie expects to be codfishing before Thanksgiving.

POINT LOOKOUT

Captain Dennis of the charter boat **Marie III** fished Sunday at Long Creek in the morning and Reynolds channel buoy 17 in the afternoon for flounder. He reports lots of small fish in Long Creek, with fewer but larger flounder in Reynolds channel up to 1½ lbs. Fish now averaging between ½ and 1 lb. Seven men had 100 plus keepers. One sharpshooter had 35 keepers himself, all on clam and worm bait. Action on both tides. Dennis says to watch ad for first open boat cod trip in early December.

At **Scotty's Fishing Station**, Marilyn told us that George from the local A&P had seven flounder in the 2 lb. class among his catch made in the inlet. Back in the bays and channels, flounder have been plentiful but small. For blackfish fans, Vito Gilano took 25 of the toothy critters up to 4½ lbs. at the Loop Parkway Bridge. Bass hounds will find encouragement in the three fish from 27-35 lbs. landed on bunker at the Meadowbrook Bridge by Dennis Newman one day last week.

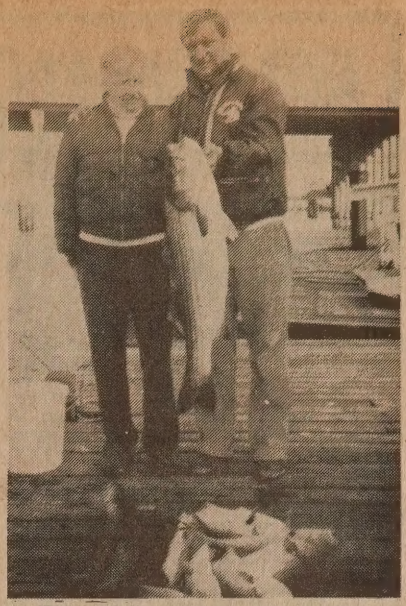
ISLAND PARK

"Blues from 8-20 lbs., in 50' of water off of Lido on bunker spoons," according to Billy at **Beckman's Tackle Shop.** A few bass along the beach on spoons and Danny plugs. Good blackfishing at all the bridges for fish up to 5 lbs. and plenty of small flounder in the bays and creeks. Chumming greatly improves flounder scores. Billy knew that one private boat from Freeport had a 200 lb. tuna at the Mudhole on Friday.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Captain Ron Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** says bass continuing to be caught in fair numbers and appear to be improving. Ronnie's charter Sunday umbrellaed 3 stripers up to 25 lbs. at Ambrose Channel. He advises that Rockaway is now also producing stripers on bunker spoons. Still plenty of blues to be had and what Ron is most happy about is that the percentage of bass is getting greater.

"Some nice fat flounder being taken on worms at Duck Point and in Bannister Creek," according to Leon at **Henning's Fishing Station.** Good blackfishing at the bridges continues and 4-6 lb. blues a leap job between the channels at Ambrose. Fish are being taken on jigs and umbrella rigs. Sunday AM, Fred Hill of the Four Queens returned with a box of blues and 2 school bass from this area. Also Sunday, Rich Diamond and Jordan Levin found blues and bass all over the surface at the Rockaways. They had a box of blues on bunker spoons and a 28 lb. bass. They also had a 90 lb. snap straightened by a big striper after fighting him for 5 minutes.



This 22 lb. striper, along with a nice mess of blues, were landed by Bill Turner, Sr. and Jack McGuire at Sandy Hook aboard the "Kim."

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Mike's Tackle reports the bluefish boats are slaughtering fish at Klondike and the Tin Can grounds on A-27s with or without tails, fish in the 3-5 lb. range. Double-headers not uncommon if you're fishing 2 hooks. Some boats sailing open for tuna. Friday 8 tuna were landed on one boat, 12 on another. Blackfishing remains very good at Seabright and buoy 17 on green crab. Lots of ling at Scotland and whiting at the second mud hole.

The **Pilot II** reported excellent blackfishing has lasted for 3 weeks already fishing the Jersey Coast and 17 Fathoms. Catches have ranged anywhere from 10-50 blackfish per person, running from 2-10 lbs. These nice sized fish are being taken on green crabs.

The **Dorothy B** has also been enjoying super blackfishing at 17 Fathoms and other wrecks. These fish ran up to 10 lbs. and were taken on green crabs and some on clam. High hook on Sunday had 28 fish. Two or three cod are being picked up everyday, some bluefish are also being taken along with a red hake taken on Sunday.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny, at **Santo's Sport Shop**, described the flounder fishing at Stapleton Piers 8, 12, and 17, as well as in the harbor, as "Good." Worm trollers taking school bass at the 21 can with bigger fish falling to bunker spoons in the Flynn's Knoll/Romer Shoals area. Big blues here also.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports the bridges producing flounder from 3/4 to 2 lbs. on worms. Also some small blues on bunker chunks and blackfish up to 3 lbs. on fiddler crabs.

FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED

To place an ad in *The Long Island Fisherman's* classified ad section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read, along with your check or money order for the full amount. *(Sorry, no billing.)* Rates for non-subscribers are 25-cents per word, 30 word ($7.50) minimum. Subscribers of *The Fisherman* receive a discount if they include the number off their subscription label. Classified rates for subscribers are: 20 cents per word, 30 word ($6.00) minimum. Discounts for extended runs: 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times, 15%. to run a photograph with an ad, add $16.80 to the words.

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22' 1979 SISU Inboard, lobster canopy hardtop, 4 cyl. Volvo engine, FWC. Fully equipped for sportfishing, loaded with extras. Four flush mount rod holders, automatic Loran C, CB radio, compass. Cuddy cabin with ample storage space and one bunk. Dual battery system. Stern controls and tiller bar. In the water, ready to go. Will demonstrate. Call Ken at 516-728-8566.

Al Ristori's Fishing Machine: 1978 MAKO 21/1979 Evinrude 200 w/power trim for sale at end of season. Boat fully equipped and available with or without accessories: VHF and CB Radios; outriggers, downrigger, console cover, etc. In water at Montauk Marine Basin. Come out for demonstration ride. Call: 201-334-8059 or 516-668-3130; or leave message at Montauk Marine Basin, 516-668-5900.

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Fishing Station with bar and restaurant. Business for sale. Mid $20s. Seaford Area. 212-VI 3-8218.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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FALL TRADITION

(Continued from page 15.)

off at this exit and you'll be on Granite Avenue. Proceed along Granite Avenue in the direction you're heading, over the bridge, past the lumber yard, and up to Gallivan Blvd. There's a MacDonald's and a Mobil station at this intersection, so you can tank up the car and grab a bite to eat both in the morning and evening. Turn right on Gallivan Blvd.; continue along past the shopping center (watch for the top & Shop sign) to the traffic light at the Neponset Circle. Proceed through the lights, heading toward the Texaco gas station. The second street on your right, past the gas station and just before you head up the ramp onto the Southeast Expressway, is Redfield St. Turn right onto Redfield St. and simply follow the "Flounder Fleet" signs to the dock and the boats. It's a good idea to call ahead and reserve a space, as a lot of other anglers have the same fall tradition as we do. The number is (617) 773-9020. If you see a guy there with a camera in one hand, a fishing rod in the other, and receiving instructions on how to catch fish from his daughter, be sure to wave, 'cause it'll probably be me. See 'ya!

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
BLACKFISH

GREENPORT

A.P. White Bait Shop reported that blackfishing at Little Gull and Plum Islands continued very good this past week. The open boat **Brand X** has been doing a real job on the fish and will continue sailing for the tautogs until the eighteenth of the month. Art called the flounder fishing in the Orient area very good also and mentioned Petty's Bight, the fish traps and State Park as some of the more productive flatfish spots. Both clams and worms have been taking the fish.

Jimmy, Jack and Rich with a few of the 20 tailor blues they trolled outside of Moriches Inlet on Jack's boat, Skibbereen.

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NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★ MIXED BAG

ROCKY POINT

Jimmy at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said that boatmen have been making some fair catches of flounder, tomcod and mackerel in Mt. Sinai Harbor. Worms and clams take the flounder and tomcod.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Word from **Ralph's Fishing Station** is that there are plenty of flounder in the harbor, although many of the flatfish must be returned. Ralph described the blackfishing as fair with some up to 8 lbs. weighed in this past week. Both fiddlers and green crabs work for the blacks. Bluefishing, which had been excellent, took a nose dive during the week.

HUNTINGTON

George at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** described the bass fishing at Eaton's Neck earlier in the week as "Great!" Fish were still being taken in good quantity through Sunday AM. Most of the bass, which run in the 3-8 lb. class, are now being taken on multi-teasered black and white umbrella rigs. On Friday, boatmen using Tri-Fin Teardrop jigs did a good job on weakfish in the 6-10 lb. class at the obstruction buoy. Flounder have made a decent showing in the area and some big blackfish being taken at buoy 11B.

PORT JEFFERSON

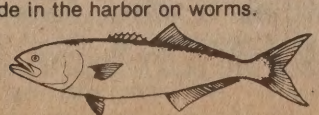
Timmy at **Caraftis Fishing Station**, said that boatmen continue to jig and troll 3-5 lb. blues at buoy 11. Blackfish on fiddlers and greens in their deep-water haunts. Old Field Point has been particularly productive. Flounder up to a pound in the bays and harbors on worms and clams.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait Shop reported fair flounder fishing in the river on worms and mussels. A few tomcod and tinker mackerel mixed with the flatties. Red Bilkis, Joe Calandrino, and Oakley Wood weighed in three blues from 11 to 14½ lbs. on Saturday. The choppers were taken on umbrella rigs at Eaton's Neck.

NORTHPORT

"Blues still around" said Tom of Bowman's Sporting Goods. Teen-size fish along Ashroken and 4-5 lbers. at the obstruction buoy on jigs. Good bass fishing continues at Eaton's Neck and some decent flounder catches being made in the harbor on worms.



NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ MIXED BAG

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reported plenty of small flounder off of the floats in the bay and at Orchard Beach. Best bait has been worms. Boats have been fishing the Stamford ares and buoy 11B for big blackfish. Some of the fish have been running 8-9 lbs. Green crabs are the preferred bait. Bass in the 3-8 lb. class being trolled on black and white umbrella rigs from Execution Light to the North buoy.

SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

As the season wears down, less and less anglers are in evidence around the Island's beaches. Surely this decline cannot be attributed to a dearth of fish. If the weather continues as mild as it has been, the more ardent among us can look forward to having a good shot at migrating stripers for another couple of weeks. This season seems to be patterning itself after a couple we had back in the mid-Seventies. Mild weather lasted right through December one of those years and I did a real job on school bass at Robert Moses just two days before Christmas.

Maybe this week's report will delay some of the clan from reaching for the gun or bow just yet.

SOUTH SHORE: East End

A few bass under the Light last week sparked just enough interest to keep casters working through the tide. Wednesday night I took a 24 lber. on a yellow darter. My partner, Richie Simmons matched this fish the following night, also on a yellow darter. Besides Richie's fish Thursday night, two other fine bass were taken from the rocks. One landed on a white bottle plug looked to go about 40, while another caster took a fish around the 30 lb. mark. Johnny Kronuch told me that he weighed up a 30 lb. bass for Mike Mira Saturday morning. This fish also came from under the Light. A big heave discouraged most anglers Saturday night.

Four to five pound bluefish roamed along the ocean beaches east of Shinnecock Inlet last week, according to Thom at Speck's Tackle Shop. A few bass and weakfish were mixed with the blues. Fish were taken on tins, jig and tube combos, and Tri-Fin Eel Worms.

Moving over to the west side of the inlet brings us to the site of "Pop" Smith's 42.5 lb. striper taken Thursday afternoon. The huge bass hit a tin at 3:30 in the afternoon and kept "Pop" busy for a full half hour.

Down at Cupsogue, blues, weaks and a few bass kept casters active early in the week. John Schauer and myself took a few 4-5 lb. blues on J-8's just before dusk on Saturday. Sunday AM, two friends had several blues to 8 lbs., and told me that one caster took a 30 lb. bass and had another in the teens on an Ava jig with a red tube.

Marty Beer and Fergy Jones had 40 bluefish in the 4-5 lb. class along the National Seashore west of Smith's Point on Friday afternoon.

SOUTH SHORE: West End

From The Store at Oak Beach, Hays told me that John the Greek, Charlie Tuma, and Tommy Leonard had 13 blues up to 15 lbs. on bait at Gilgo late last week. Hays had no word on stripers from the Cedar-Gilgo area.

As ardent as they come, young Paul McCormick relayed word that he and Jerry Lambert watched one caster leave the West End jetty with a bass about 30 and a blue around 20 Friday evening. Both fish were taken on a 7½" Rebel. Another caster took blues of 13 and 20 lbs. on bunker chunks from the same rock pile. A pat on the back to Jerry for climbing down on the rocks and retrieving a big striper, which eventually weighed in at 47 lbs., for one lucky angler. Some blues on bait at Tobay last week just before dark.

Lynbrook tackleman Billy Beckmann knew of a few blues in the 12-14 lb. class taken on darters and bottle plugs from the Point Lookout surf last week.

Lenny at Santo's Sport Shop on Staten Island told of quite a few bass around. Mostly schoolies, but a showing of big fish in recent days. The South Beach area, Cliff Street, New Dorp, and great Kills Park have all been productive with all the action on worm bait.

NORTH SHORE: West End

Jack's Bait and Tackle in City Isla filed a report of continuing good acti with school bass in Turtle Cove and Orchard Beach. The fish run 3-5 lbs. best action this past week has been n small bucktails.

George Valentine told me from his Huntington shop that while casters d a few school bass and some blu at Lloyd's Point early last week, h has heard of nothing since then.

Tom Bowman said from his No port store that casters' pick away a blues and an occasional bass alon local beaches. He did weigh in a 7 lb. chopper taken at Ashroken on darter after dark.

NORTH SHORE: East E

At Rocky Point Fishing Sto I was told of good bluefish action ng with some bass on the beache east of Wading River. Fish were bein taken on both tins and bait. One cast stopped by the shop one day durin the week with six blues in the 10-16 lb ass.

Out in Greenport, Art W te passed along word that casters have en taking big blues along with an occional bass at Horton's Point.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	4:27	4:38	5:23	5:35	5:10	5:27	6:09	6:27	8:37	9:01	7:48	8:09	4:18	4:39	11/13
FRI.	5:12	5:26	6:04	6:18	5:55	6:11	6:47	7:07	9:14	9:38	8:30	8:53	5:03	5:22	11/16
SAT.	5:55	6:09	6:41	6:58	6:35	6:52	7:24	7:47	9:38	10:05	9:11	9:35	5:45	6:04	11/17
SUN.	6:34	6:50	7:19	7:35	7:12	7:30	7:58	8:24	9:51	10:23	9:50	10:16	6:26	6:46	11/18
MON.	7:12	7:28	7:56	8:14	7:47	8:06	8:34	9:03	10:17	10:50	10:29	10:56	7:06	7:28	11/19
TUE.	7:51	8:09	8:35	8:53	8:21	8:44	9:11	9:45	10:54	11:16	11:08	11:36	7:47	8:10	11/20
WED.	8:29	8:49	9:14	9:35	8:57	9:26	9:51	10:29	11:35	–	11:48	–	8:30	8:52	11/21
THUR.	9:12	9:36	9:56	10:18	9:39	10:16	10:33	11:15	12:08	12:18	12:20	12:33	9:14	9:40	11/22

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

11/2	6:33	4:53
11/7	6:40	4:47
11/12	6:46	4:42
11/17	6:52	4:38
11/22	6:58	4:34
11/27	7:04	4:31

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
11/19	11/26	11/4	11/11

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	12:50	7:20	1:20	7:40
Fri.	1:30	8:00	1:55	8:20
Sat.	2:10	8:40	2:35	9:00
Sun.	2:50	9:25	3:15	9:45
Mon.	3:35	10:05	4:00	10:30
Tues.	4:15	11:00	4:45	11:30
Wed.	5:10	11:55	5:45	—
Thurs.	6:05	12:30	6:40	1:00

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